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The Long Island FISHERMAN

The Difference Between Just Fishing and Catching Fish!

VOL. 13, NO. 20 MAY 18, 1978

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COMING NEXT WEEK:
Bottom Structures for Seabass

About the Cover—

Bass may be somewhat scarcer than they have been in the early seventies, but May is the spring month when surf fishermen and boatmen alike can score with artificials along the shores of L.i. Sound and in the quiet back-bay waters of the south shore. See Ron Onorato's article on page 28.

Photo by Dick Mermon

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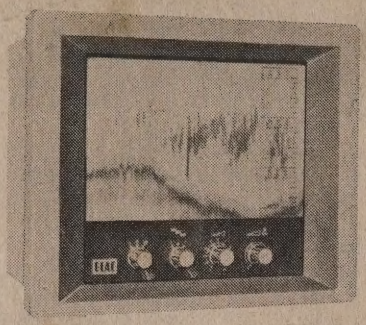

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ANNUAL BLESSING OF THE FLEET

The Annual Blessing of the Fleet will take place at Montauk, Sunday, June 11, 1978, between 4:30 and 5:30 p.m.

The procession will be lead by the Bumble Bee and the Coast Guard 41 Ft., followed by the Viking Startship, Viking Star, Marlin, Jigger, Flying Cloud, Draggers, the Charter Fleet and private boats. The Coast Guard 44 Ft. will pick up the wreath and the clergy from the Town Dock and proceed to the jetty bell for the passing of the wreath to the sea, where the boats will assemble in an area around the bell for the dedication.

After the wreath has been placed in the sea, the Coast Guard 41 Ft. boat will lead the participants back inside the Harbor, past the Town Dock.

The public is cordially invited and may ride on the boats.

THE N.Y. SPORTFISHING COUNCIL NEWS

1977 brought many changes to affect the fishermen of New York. A 200-mile limit, and the possibility of saltwater fishing licensing, to name but a few. This proposed legislation for licensing and the articles opposing the concept which appeared in sportfishing columns—in particular The Long Island Fisherman—brought about the creation of the now-active New York Sportfishing Council. This conclave, comprised of renowned charter captains from Montauk to Brooklyn; sportfishing clubs of all dimensions; tackle dealers; livery men, and concerned fishermen, met en masse to voice their unanimous disapproval of any form of saltwater licensing. From this impressive gathering, the New York Sportfishing Council was formed, with its main objectives to protect the environment, promote better fishing facilities and to keep an ever-watchful eye on proposed legislation that would be detrimental to the sportfishing fraternity.

Since the organization is comprised of all forms of sportfishing interests, it has taken numerous meetings to reach definite conclusions on the multitude of problems which face the sportfishermen throughout Long Island. Thus, specific committees were formed to investigate and attempt solutions to the current problems. The first such committee to reach a solution to the problem was successful in securing proposed legislation. The Weakfish Committee has the backing of Assemblymen Cochrane and Burns, plus Senator Pisani, in their proposal for banning gill nets during the critical period in

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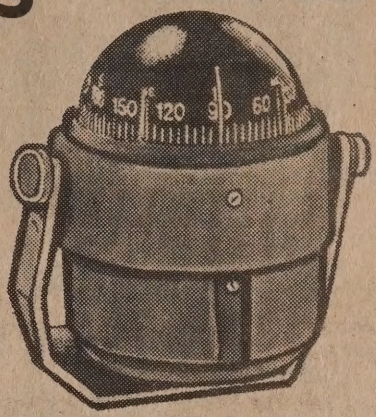

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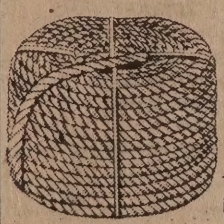

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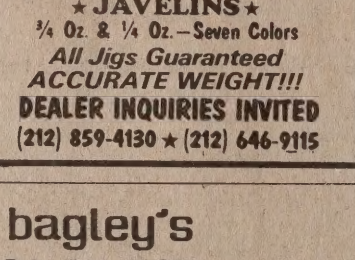
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the Great South Bay. This proposal and others like it will not be in time to correct the problem this year; but if passed, will solve the problem next year.

Since there will be further publicity and releases detailing the exact legislation the Council is proposing, we will only comment here that the weakfish situation is critical and all sportfishing enthusiasts must unite to seek productive methods to reduce the extreme heavy pressures put on this species of fish.

Additional programs that the Council is involved with and investigating, are any further attempts at saltwater licensing, marine agriculture, the separation of fish and wildlife from the Department of Environmental Conservation, and beach access for surf fishermen. As indicated previously, the Council is unanimously against any form of saltwater licensing and will keep an ever-watchful eye for any further attempts at licensing.

In conclusion, although our membership through the various representative organizations consists of thousands, we will still need support and assistance to reach the goals we strive for. Further, realizing there are other concerned groups, who undoubtedly seek the same goals—we must unite. Therefore, we ask that any organization or individual who is serious concerned with the environment, social and ecological problems confronting us, contact the Council at its headquarters in Patchogue, by phoning (516) 654-3036, or contact the writer, George Gerhold, evenings at (516) 431-9167.

Fishermen, we remind you that for many years, small organizations have attempted to protect specific species and, for the most part, were unsuccessful, largely because they were few in number. The fishermen of Long Island have finally united through the New York Sportfishing Council, and by sheer numbers can now effectively secure the proper controls, institute educational programs, and be instrumental in arranging for the proper biological studies and research programs that will enhance the fishing community for generations to come.

CALL US: WE NEED YOUR HELP AND WANT YOUR SUPPORT.

FISHERMEN NEEDED FOR SURVEY

The Mid-Atlantic Fisheries Management Council has asked the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) to conduct a survey of the recreational mackerel fishing in New York. The area covered in the survey will include both the north and south shores of Long Island from Sheepshead Bay in Brooklyn, to Montauk, and will take place from April 25 until approximately May 15.

In the survey, private boat fishermen, as well as charter and party boat fishermen, will be asked to provide information relative to the amount of time they spend fishing and the numbers of fish they catch. DEC and NMFS personnel will interview private boat anglers by telephone, while charter and party boat fishermen will be interviewed at dockside.

The purpose of the survey is to document the mackerel catch of recreational anglers and to provide data for mackerel abundance estimates which will aid the Mid-Atlantic Council in its efforts to manage the fishing, both recreational and commercial, for this species.

For further information, contact NYSDEC Community Relations, (516) 751-7900, Ext. 228.

PATIENCE FOR "SHARKS ON SITE."

An apology to all those who have ordered "Sharks on Site" and still have not received the book. Due to the large volume of sales, we are back-ordered for two weeks. Please be patient. **Capt. Irv Levine.**

CLUB NEWS

SOUND SURF FISHING CLUB ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP

The Sound Surf Fishing Club is now accepting applications for new members who have an interest in sport fishing for bass, blues and weakfish. We are looking for people who fish either the surf, or boat.

We are a club whose purpose and function is to bring together those with a common interest in sport fishing, and to promote the exchange of knowledge, ideas and theories among our members.

Since the majority of the membership live in the Town of Huntington, our regular monthly meetings are held at the VFW Post in Elwood, the fourth Monday of every month at 8:30 p.m. Guests are always welcome.

Trophies for team and individual achievements are presented at our annual trophy dinner in February.

For additional information, call: Frank Meyer, 588-2672.

HUNTINGTON ANGLERS' CLUB FLOUNDER CONTEST

Sunday, April 30, twenty-nine members of the Huntington Anglers' Club went out to Greenport, N.Y., on their yearly flounder charter on the "Tuna" with Capt. John Scanlan and despite the blustery winds, managed to catch sixty flounders. First prize won by Dick Deasy, 2 lb. 5½ oz. flounder.

Second prize went to a junior member, Eric Ambrosio, 1 lb. 15 oz. flounder. High hook was Andy Hoffman, with nine flounders. Big fish caught at Hedges Ledge. Winds from the N.W. must have been up to 40 mph.

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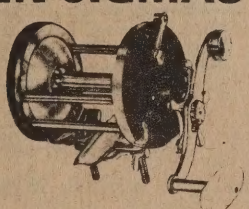

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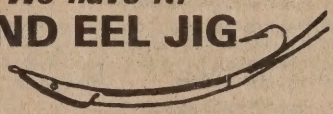

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Salt Water Sportsman's famed editor has put it all together in one complete, entertaining and educating volume. From knots and terminal tackle to surf, boating, bay and pier techniques. From flounder and fluke to striped bass, snook and giant tuna, this book has it all. Woolner's easy to read style will make this one of the favorites on your book shelf. *365pgs., illus.*

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Successful Bluefishing

by Henry Lyman

Salt Water Sportsman publisher Hal Lyman presents a lifetime of experience and research fishing for blues. Thorough coverage is given to the life cycle of the blue and to every angling method. *128 pgs., 75 illus.*

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Fiberglass Rod Making

by Dale Clemens

It's all here – every conceivable aspect of building fiberglass rods from the lightest trout wand to the largest big game trolling rod. Now you can make your own custom rods, tailored exactly to the kinds of fishing you do, to your physique, to the rod action you prefer, and to your tastse in decoration and finish. 190 pages of step-by-step instructions. *196 photos & dia.*

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The Captain's Cookbook

by Capt. Walter Kaprielian

Captain Walter Kaprielian of Montauk compiled, edited, wrote, designed and illustrated this wonderful book on simple, but delicious, recipes for the novice to cook his catch. Beautifully illustrated by the author with step-by-step diagrams, so easy to follow that Stu Miller can cook! *212 large 8½x11" pages, illus.*

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Best Ways To Catch More Fish

by Vlad Evanoff

A complete guide to better fishing, virtually all you need to know to match your catch with the experts. The emphasis is on method, and every kind of fishing is covered. From smallmouth bass to striped marlin, here are all the secrets – an encyclopedia of fishing knowledge! *228 pages, photos and diagrams.*

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Successful Striped Bass Fishing

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The Complete Book of Striped Bass

by Nicholas Karas

Practical fishing techniques for striped bass from soup to nuts. From the surf, bank, pier, jetty, bridge, boats. By trolling, casting, chumming and bait. Day and night! On conventional, spinning and flyrod. Setting up a bass boat and beach buggy. *365 pgs., photos and dia.*

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CHUM LINES

TROUBLE MAKING SINKERS

I recently inherited a complete set for making your own lead sinkers. My friendly tire dealer supplied me with plenty of lead weights and I was all set to go.

I re-read your how-to series on making the sinkers and proceeded with great vigor. Unfortunately, I failed. The molten lead just refused to go into the cast. Either it went into the hole and just rimmed the cast or it proceeded to go in and solidified. I cleaned the inside, figuring the hole might be dirty—no luck. I heated the entire cast with a blow torch—again no luck. "Frustration."

I was all ready to give my gift back until I read your article on spoon sinkers—success! But, why did I fail with the mold? Please help, suggestions needed. **Jon Rothfeld, Oceanside, N.Y.**

It is very hard to pinpoint an explanation without being with you when you made the sinkers. However, there are a couple of ideas that come to mind.

First, your lead may not have been hot enough; thus, when you poured it, the lead quickly began to solidify on the walls of the mold clogging the pouring process and preventing a good cast. It may also be possible that your lead was contaminated with another metal that may have had a higher melting point and thus did not easily remain molten when you poured the mixture. Try using pure lead and heating the molten metal to a higher temperature.

SAVE THE MACKEREL BELLIES

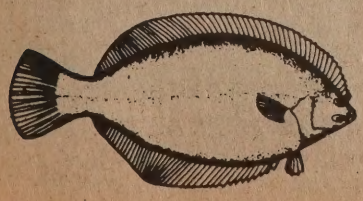
Now that the mackerel season is upon us, it is extremely frustrating for me to watch the many fishermen who discard (throw to the gulls) the second best part of said fish.

I am referring to the flanks (belly or underside).

This portion of the fish is unexcelled as fluke bait when properly cut in 3/4" by 4" strips. In my opinion, it is far superior to squid and costs practically nothing.

Simply package in amounts desired for a day's fluke fishing and store in freezer. Takes up little space, too!

Thought your readers might be interested. **Harry Stammers, Garden City, N.Y.**



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FISH TALK
with Dr. William A. Muller

RECENT RESEARCH ON SCHOOLING—*Part III*
Some Implications for Fishermen

UPDATE! In the first two parts of this series, we have examined the basis of schooling behavior and we discovered that the reaction of a group of fishes is based mostly upon the senses of sight, sound, and smell. We also found out that schooling behavior apparently originated among slow swimming species and that swimming together in a group offers several advantages to the fish such as energy conservation and reduced water drag. This week's discussion will take a look at synchrony and predation.

SYNCHRONY! Synchrony refers to the exact coordination of swimming behavior and response. How perfect is the synchrony of a group of fish? At first glance, it may appear that a school of fish is perfectly coordinated. However, studies show that "the hand is quicker than the eye." In this case, the fish is quicker than the eye. Using ultra-slow motion photographic techniques, researchers have found that the synchrony is not perfect. To begin with, schools of fish are organized into pods or small groups that usually are comprised of three, four, or five individuals. Scientists found that when a school responded to a stimulus, that pods of fish in the interior of the school changed direction. When the pockets or pods of fish had begun their response, then the school changed its course. It is interesting to note that the entire school did not turn until after the interior pods had reacted, but we unfortunately do not have any evidence to explain why this is so. The total time elapsed between the reception of the stimuli and the reaction of the school occurs generally in less than one-half a second! This is very fast. Some researchers have suggested, on the basis of slim evidence, that the sense of sight accounts for the ability of the interior pods of the school to react first. Even though fish deep within the school may not perceive the exterior stimuli first, they may pick up subtle, but very rapid signals from their neighbors thus initiating the process. Why there might be an advantage to the middle of the school turning first remains an interesting problem without explanation.

WAVE OF DISTURBANCE! Radakov tried to explain this interior response behavior. His research indicated that a wave of distburbance moved through the school at a rate of twenty-six-plus feet per second. This is fasther than the fish in the school can move in reaction to the stimuli; thus, the response of the school is not one hundred percent dependent upon the response of neighboring fish. Perhaps sound transmission plays a key role?

MAINTAINING COORDINATION WITHOUT THREATENING STIMULI! There is a distinct advantage for the fish in a school in that the school responds much faster to danger than the single fish. Some studies suggest that the sensory abilities of the group is enhanced by the duplication of effort. That is, since the members of a school maintain spatial relationships, each fish continuously senses its environment and thus the sensory ability of the school is increased. A single fish can only sense a limited portion of its environment, but a group of fish can probe in many different directions simultaneously. Each fish is continuously adjusting its distance from its neighbors and thus there is maintained a constant state of alert. A fish in the center of a school may react immediately through instinct reaction to the response of its neighbors, yet may never know what the nature of the danger was! This, too, may have a survival value since interior school members may react "rationally" instead of with panic. Since fish in a school depend upon other members of the school for the quality and quantity of their reactions, the order of the school may be glued together by the fish in the middle of the school because they react without the panic that may tend to be typical of the fish at the edges of the school.

PREY—PREDATOR SCHOOLING REACTIONS. There are a number of important aspects to this discussion. First, predators do not attack prey schools uniformly. Second, the reaction of a school of prey may be a conditioned response—or a learned species behavior.

RECOGNITION OF THE PREDATOR. If a school of prey is attacked by two species of predators at two different times—where one predator is a common predator and the other is an uncommon predator—the reaction of the prey will be very different. When a familiar predator attacks a school, it reacts as a school. However, when an unfamiliar predator attacks, only those prey individuals that were being attacked reacted. This suggests that there is a species learning process. That is, each generation in which a certain predator feeds on a certain prey reinforces the response of the prey, and little by little improves their survival possibilities against that predator.

LESS LIKELY TO BE EATEN WHEN YOU ARE IN A SCHOOL. Many studies have shown that prey swimming in a school are much less likely to fall victim to a predator than if they swam alone. One experiment is especially interesting. In the first part of the study, a school of prey were introduced into a tank with four predators. The scientists discovered that for these species it took over two minutes before the first prey was consumed. In the second part of the study, a single prey was introduced and it was consumed in about twenty-five seconds! This is eight times faster! Why? The school of prey confuses the predator and this confusion requires time to sort out. Of course, this relationship does not hold true where there is structure in which the prey can hide or where the predator can ambush from. When prey can hide in seaweed, for example, there is an advantage to the dispersion of the individuals. Major, in a study he published this year, revealed that schooling helps protect the prey, but that schooling of the predators also helped them to capture the prey which moved in schools. Thus, large associations of predators not only feed upon the prey, but also disrupt the school of prey thereby scattering at least some individuals, making it easier for the predator to capture the prey.

MANY REASONS WHY SCHOOLING EVOLVED. We have stated that schooling behavior apparently first evolved among slow swimming fishes in order to reduce water drag (Part II). However, scientists believe that, after this initial beginning, the behavior evolved in different species to assist with different problems. Segher's research, for example, suggests that schooling in guppies evolved in order to help them avoid predation. He found that populations of guppies living under the pressure of high predation tended to form well organized schools, whereas guppies in bodies of water where predation was only an occasional problem tended to swim in very loosely organized groups.

PREY STRATEGIES. The organization of the school serves as the basic survival structure. Within that model, prey fish still react in different ways to avoid predation. Potts (1970) identified three different levels of predator avoidance responses. He referred to them as low, medium, and high level responses. Not only do different species of prey exhibit different types of responses, but the same school of prey may respond differently to the presence of different predators. The low intensity prey response was observed when the prey were trying to avoid either slow swimming predators or those that tended to feed by lunging forward rather than darting in all directions. Prey responding at this level actually tended to follow the predator! Prey

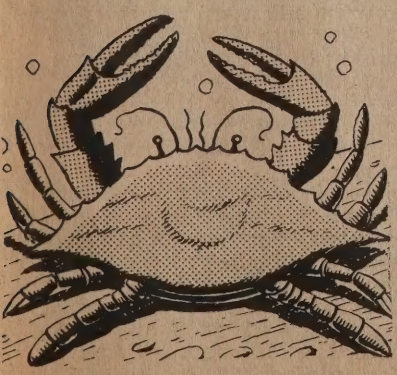
xhibiting the medium response isually swam in front of the predator, hen divided into two groups veering ff sideways and then regrouping ehind the predator! Potts found that n his experiments a jackfish predator roduced a high intensity response. lacks are pretty quick swimmers and hey maneuver quite well, darting ack and forth and up and down after rey. At this level of response, the rey scattered completely and even after the predator was gone, it took he prey fish almost twenty minutes to ompletely regroup.

THE CLASSICAL FLASH! Remember the last time someone took your picture indoors and "popped" a flashbulb in your eyes? Remember how you lost your orientation? Ever read in a fishing magazine how a certain plug or lure worked great because it flashed and then read some place else that a certain lure was no good because it flashed? Studies show that the flash of the silver side of a prey can be an advantage or a disadvantage. If a single fish turns and flashes, it will enhance the ability of the predator to catch it; but if an entire school turns and flashes, it will cause disorientation among the predators.

PREDATORS HAVE A FEW TRICKS, TOO! Predators attack prey in different ways which seem to be a product of their own adaptation. Thus, some fish such as striped bass may circle a school of bait and force it into a tighter and tighter group before attacking, thus enhancing the disruption effect: bluefish slash through a school of prey and attack individual prey without apparent pattern, and other predator species may alternately rush and retreat from a school of prey keeping them in a constant state of disruption. In the latter case, the rate of feeding may decline, but the prey can be exploited for hours.

Summary of Schooling Advantages.

1. Conservation of energy.
2. Improved reproductive abilities.
3. Promote species learning.
4. Improve tolerance to toxic materials.
5. Improves survival chances.
6. Facilitates finding a mate.



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Surf Side

with Paul Reynolds

FLY ROD WEAKFISH

★PART ONE★

Nothing has been of more importance to saltwater fly fishermen in our area than the resurgence of the weakfish in recent years. Using ultra-light equipment, local anglers have been delighted with the thrill of hooking up with weakfish in the five to nine pound weight category through the fishing season on both the north and south shores. As a result, many anglers have been recently turned on to fly rodding. However, many have also been frustrated because of their lack of success. This article is being written to acquaint the readers with some of the factors that have turned fly rodding for weakfish into a dynamic sport for so many anglers. The first point which must be made that is so often neglected is that weakfishing is best at night. That's right: the hours between sunset and dawn. To be successful, you must be prepared to fish these hours. You probably already have certain spots that you have either tried or would like to try. If you are not familiar with weakfishing areas, you should be looking for an accessible tidal creek or a channel or cut that is easily accessible via a bay flat in an area where you know weakfishing is popular. As an incentive, it is a simple fact that many fine fishing locations are found by fly rodders who are looking for solitude or a new spot each year. With any fishing experience behind you, you should be able to find productive areas without problem.

Tides and wind direction will play a major role in the feeding patterns of the fish in the area you have selected. If you are familiar with these factors—great. If not, your work is cut out for you. Even if you are familiar with an area, certain aspects will be of great importance now that you are fly rodding. As for tides, there is little doubt that the site you have chosen will be best fished at a certain stage of a particular tide. Experimentation will be needed. Usually areas such as those previously mentioned are best during an outgoing tide; but this is by no means a hard and fast rule. If you find an area that you have strong suspicions should produce fish and it is not on the outgoing tide, don't be afraid to try a few incoming tides.

Circumstances can occur which can be misleading. Bob Drinkwater, a good friend and fishing buddy of mine, and I arrived early to an area that is usually best on the outgoing tide. Surprised, we found that the last hour-and-a-half of incoming tide, as well as the last half of the outgoing were also excellent. Two points can be made. First, to the best of my knowledge, that was one of two times when fish were caught during an incoming tide all season. A person lacking knowledge of the area would have thought that the last part of the incoming tide would be best. He would have gone broke banking on it. Second, even after the fishing dropped off at the beginning of the outgoing, we stayed. We did so because we had confidence in our area. It paid dividends to us, and it will for you, too. Sure, you're going to be wrong sometimes, but the times you're right more than makes up for it.

The equipment you will use for weakfishing is much the same as that used in fly rodding for other species in our area. If conditions warrant, the lightest equipment available to you should be considered, as this will add greatly to your fishing pleasure. Fighting and landing a seven pound weakfish on an eight-foot rod with six weight line, is quite an experience. (For a further discussion of equipment and its selection, refer to Issue #9.) Types of line will vary from floating to extra-fast sinking for the various conditions you will encounter. In addition, tapers for lines should include: weight forward, as well as a shooting taper. If I had but one choice, it would be a floating shooting taper fly line.

Except for casting problems, which can be cured through practice, the greatest self-imposed problem that the fly rodder can create is poor leader selection. Having misinterpreted literature or having been misdirected by other anglers, fly rodders can often be seen using leader lengths of between nine and twelve feet, and often even greater. In saltwater fly fishing, there is almost always some form of breeze. Often when fishing is best, there is quite a good breeze. The wind has a tremendous effect on your fly and the performance of your leader. Generally speaking, the longer the leader, the greater the wind's effects will be.

In addition, the saltwater species in our area are certainly not as spooky as the freshwater trout and are not nearly as leader shy as many anglers suggest. A tapered leader of approximately five feet in length is quite sufficient, especially when using sinking lines. For the great majority of fishing I do, I use a three-piece tapered leader consisting of thirty, eighteen, and twelve inch sections. The pound test of lines used will vary. A good starting point would be a thirty inch section of thirty pound test; and eighteen inch section of eighteen pound test, and a twelve inch section. This leader is quite heavy and in short order, you will want to offer yourself more of a challenge by greatly reducing the leader strength.

Certain procedures must be incorporated into your fishing pattern in order to improve your fish-catching ability. First is the manner in which you approach your fishing site and start fishing. (This is described in detail in Part II of this series.)

Second is the method used to present your fly to the fish. It is important to understand that if it is at all possible, your fly should be presented at the level at which the fish are feeding. If there is a large concentration of bait in the water, the weakfish will most likely set up a feeding lane and will not move very far from it when feeding. During the times you encounter weakfish, they will either be looking for food of any type or feeding on one of the following: shrimp, sand eels, small bait fish, large bait fish. Naturally, the fly that you will be using should be a representation of whatever the weakfish are feeding on.

although simple attractor flies have achieved fabulous results at times. Generally speaking, the flies you will be using increase in size as the season progresses. Flies of the early season, which may be as small as an inch, will be replaced by flies which may be six inches or more during October.

To successfully present your imitation, four methods are generally used. These are what I call the dead drift, dead strip, strip, and active strip methods. In the dead drift method, casts are made up-current and the fly is allowed to drift from the up-current landing position to the down-current extreme. As the fly moves down-current back towards the caster, slack line must be gathered by the angler in order to maintain line control. When the fly begins to pass the caster, the fly will begin to swing if line is kept taut. This can be very effective and many takes will occur at this time. Try a variation of this technique: as the fly passes the caster, he releases a coil or so of gathered line. By pointing the rop tip towards the fly and by rapidly moving the tip back and forth from left to right once or twice, the line can be released and the fly will continue a natural drift. This method is very effective, but you will have poor line control, as you will be fishing on a slack line. Many fish will be hooked and then lost in the beginning.

The second method—dead strip—is a simple variation of the first method in which every five to ten seconds a quick strip of approximately twelve inches is made. This method imitates the movements of shrimp and dying bait fish. You can create variations by changing the length of strip, the time between strips, etc.

The strip method provides movement of the fly induced by the angler throughout the time period when the fly is in the water. Strips can be made an inch at a time up to twelve inches at a time. Again, this is done throughout the time the fly is in the water.

The active strip imparts quick motion to the fly. After the cast is made, the rod is placed under the casting arm and held tight. Two hands are left free; both will strip in line as quickly as possible. The hits you receive when using this method are nothing short of phenomenal.

These methods are only a guideline. Each has proven to be effective. There are, however, infinite variations, and many very successful fly fishermen have their pet methods. Whatever method you use, it is of utmost importance that the rod tip be held parallel to the water. By doing this, the strike is first absorbed by the stripping hand, which immediately guarantees a better hook-up. Secondly, assuming that hook-ups are made in both cases, if the rod tip is not pointed at the water initially, the fight will be carried out on the parts of the rod that will do the least amount of good.

In closing, let me point out that it is a generally accepted fact that most fishermen are quite secretive; operate in small cliques, and generally will offer little or no help when confronted on the beach. This could not be further from the truth when it comes to fly fishermen. Any fly fishermen that I have had the pleasure to meet have been courteous and offered their assistance to me whenever needed. Try to be as observant as possible and learn as much as you can by yourself—this will help you most of all.

In the next issue, we'll deal with some of the specifics in fly rodding for striped bass and bluefish.

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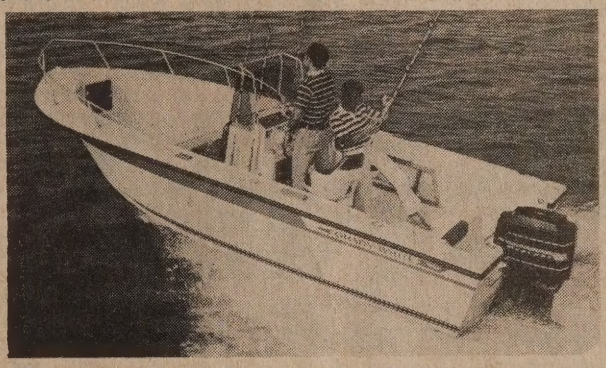

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Sinker Bouncing

with Matt Ahern

FLUKE FISHING

★ Part Two ★

Last week fluke fishing from shore was discussed. This week, boat fishing gets the spotlight, plus a few additional words on putting fish aboard. Most anglers would agree boat fishermen have a decided advantage over their shore-bound brethren. Which, of course, is true—but only when the fisherman knows exactly what he's doing. Now that certainly sounds sensible enough, but over the years I've discovered there are many sinker bouncers who think otherwise. I have often heard disgruntled shore fishermen exclaim that if only they had a boat, they'd get out there and really do a job on those fluke. Maybe so. But let me ask this: if those fellows have difficulty while shore fishing, what makes them think they would do better in a boat? A boat is, of course, highly desirable; but actually it is nothing more than a highly mobile fishing platform. It doesn't matter whether that boat incorporates the latest designs from the finest shipyard, if the angler doesn't know his fish or his fishing, it will avail him naught. It may carry him to the fishing grounds in grand style, but style doesn't put fish in the bucket. For some reason, many fishermen feel that if they use a boat, the fish—by some process of magic—will leap aboard. It just isn't so. There's no substitute for knowledge.

This I know, because at one time I was one of those disgruntled shore fishermen. I, too, had high hopes, plenty of ambition and desire, but no knowledge of fluke fishing from shore outside of what I could glean from watching the action around me. But if I only had a boat, I could...

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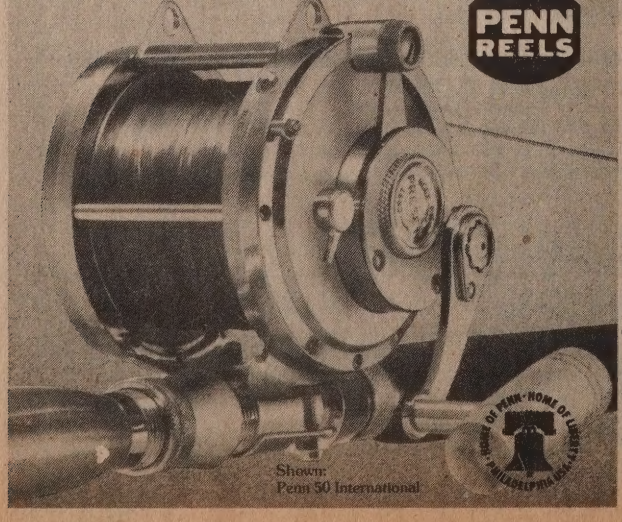

Shown: Penn 50 International

A case in point: one time in the long ago, another knee-pants kid and I had been unsuccessfully dunking killies for several days running. We had spent our time casting and jigging with wooden sidewinders and eight ounce sinkers, while standing atop a high creek bank in what was the Wreck Lead but known now as Island Park. Nearby, tethered to a stake set in the bank and most inviting to two wide-awake kids, was an old rowboat complete with oars. I guess the guy who left his boat so trustingly unprotected didn't know boys too well, and in this instance it was certainly true that two boys together at any one time is one too many. We could resist the temptation no longer and we "borrowed" the boat. Now we'd get fluke, we told each other as we set off down the creek headed for Reynold's Channel.

Of course we didn't get any more action with the boat than we did from the creek bank. We just didn't know where to fish. Later knowledge told me that had we drifted along the edges of the Channel instead of haphazardly selecting spots at random, we would probably have caught fish, but as I say, we just didn't know what to do once we got out there.

And this very same thing is what the beginner is up against today when seeking fluke from a boat. That lack of knowledge is guaranteed to have him gnashing his teeth in frustration.

A good deal of information you read on boat fishing for fluke will recommend drifting for best results; which, of course, is correct up to a point (trolling shallow water areas will usually produce more fluke, though, and we'll get into that shortly); but while drifting is productive, where do you drift? Now we're right back to where I was with my knee-pants buddy.

I have found it is best to drift along the edges of deep channels, the tail end of submerged bars on the down side of the current, and any flat with at least fifteen feet of water on low tide. If you can fish these latter areas adjacent to channels, so much the better. That locality near Reynold's Channel buoy #9 in Island Park is one spot in particular which has always produced fluke for me. In fact, only once in forty years has it failed—which you must admit is a pretty good record for one location.

I'm sure you have heard that fluke must be hunted. Believe it, for it isn't said in jest. Because you caught a mess of fluke in one spot yesterday, there's no guarantee you are going to meet with success in that same place today. Yesterday's fluke will probably be in the vicinity, but quite likely not in the same spot. So, therefore, you've got to do a little work to locate them.

A little known fact about fluke is that they lie in lanes. How long these lanes are at any given time, I have no way of telling you. They may be a hundred feet in length, or perhaps longer. They may be less than twenty-five. There's just no way of knowing without electronic aids; therefore, it is the smart fisherman who brings along a small marker buoy. This need not be elaborate. An eight ounce sinker, a sufficient length of soft line to reach and hold bottom, and a quart-sized plastic bleach bottle painted fluorescent orange, or a painted block of scrap wood will do.

This is immediately dropped over the side when the first fish is hooked—not when landed, mind you. If you wait till then, you may have drifted away from the fish-producing area by the time your fish is netted. Work that spot carefully. Take your time; there are fish about—always. No one catches just one fluke in such places. If you have only one fish to show for your efforts, rest assured you goofed somewhere along the line.

I would not give up on such a potential spot before I had first worked it over thoroughly for at least one hundred yards on each side of the buoy; and that means north, south, east, and west. Your first fish may have only been a drop-out from the main gathering, but you can be certain there are others about.

I first found out about these fluke-holding lanes many years ago while fishing Rockaway Inlet the summer after the breakwater was completed, which would make it about 1933. I and five others were aboard a small charter boat at the time and as we drifted along the length of the breakwater, we would come upon one of these lanes, yank

fish like there was no tomorrow, hit a dead spot for fifty or sixty feet, and then pass over another. This went on all day and I absolutely refuse to tell you how many fluke I caught. I don't want you to think I'm a fish hog. But it was a banner day, I'll tell you. One long to be remembered.

From then on, I have always tried my best to locate one of these fluke lanes. Every area harboring fluke has its share and to take pains in locating them is the best bit of advice I can give you. If you've ever had a real good day's fluking, you may be certain you've found one. If you haven't, you may be equally certain you've only been picking away at strays. There lies your advantage over shore fishermen. Shore-bound anglers are rarely fortunate in this respect, for these lanes seem to be always away from the mainstream of activity.

When you drift around these areas, make sure you keep that bait hopping along the bottom. Dragging bait along on the boat's momentum alone isn't the best way to catch fluke. Fluke want to see bait activity, and the more you do this (within reason) the more fluke you will attract.

When fishing at anchor—which is only recommended when conditions make drifting impossible—it is always best to use a chum pot filled with bunker or cat food, with bunker chum preferred. Always fish close to the pot. If action is slow, cast out and jig the bait back in short hops, taking in the slack as you go along. Even just reeling the bait back slowly along the bottom is better than casting out and letting it lie dead. I see many fishermen using a dead line for fluke; but don't you do it if you want your share of the available fish.

If you are fishing at anchor during slack tide, drop your bait down alongside the boat and begin jigging with **three-foot** lifts of the rod. You will find most fluke hooked with this method will strike at the top of that long lift. Once the current begins to move again, revert back to the usual method. Many times that half-hour slack period has given me more and larger fish than the rest of the day combined.

Another little trick I've learned when drifting in a fast current is this: cast as far as possible in the direction of the drift. When the sinker hits bottom, begin jigging and taking up slack until the line is straight up and down. Just before the rig drifts under the boat, give a good, high lift. Don't be surprised if your bait doesn't get too far off bottom. There is something about presenting a bait to fluke in this manner which is irresistible.

For any of this fishing we have discussed, you can use a light spinning rod and matching reel filled with ten pound test mono. A two-ounce bank sinker should do fine. Where currents are strongest, as around inlets where sinkers to four ounces may be necessary, use either a medium-weight spinning outfit with fifteen pound test line, or a medium-weight boat rod and twenty pound mono. You should have no trouble landing your fluke with any of these recommended outfits.

I mentioned fluke trolling earlier and said it is a highly effective method of catching fluke: and it is. Most of my fluke trolling has always been in three to four feet of water near channel edges or close by marshy islands. These marshy areas are particularly productive because bait fish use these as sanctuary from predators and you may be sure fluke are aware of this.

You will always find fluke in these areas, particularly so on windy days. I don't know why this should be, except that this is Nature's way of replenishing needed oxygen in warm bay waters and fluke take advantage of it. It may be, too, that fluke need more oxygen than other bay fish. I don't know, of course, as it's all supposition on my part, but it could be. Anyway, I know some of my best fluke trolling has been on windy days.

Should you decide to try your luck at trolling, you'll find it best to use an old, medium-weight boat rod with a stiff tip. This is needed to combat the strain put upon it by the boat's forward motion through the water. Many good rods have been ruined due to much trolling.

Rigging is the same as for other fluke fishing, with a two-ounce bank sinker working out well. Baits preferred are squid strips and live killies. Artificial lures such as the Bill Upperman bucktails, white or yellow, with or without a piece of squid as an added enticer, will often put fish in the bucket. Troll just fast enough to keep the bait above bottom. Hugging bottom will cause the annoyance of frequent fouling and fluke will not attack a bait festooned with weed.

The rig should be trolled about forty feet from the stern and always with the current. When returning for another pass, the circle must be wide enough to avoid alerting the fish and passing over the slack line. Don't worry about setting the hook—the boat's forward momentum will do it. Make sure you note where your first fish was hooked. Remember what was said earlier about fluke lanes.

Next week concludes this series on fluke fishing. We'll go into rigging and baits needed for successful fishing.

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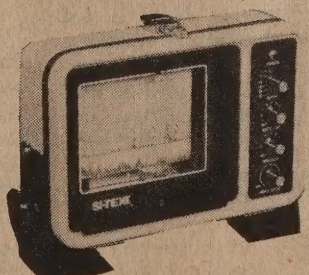

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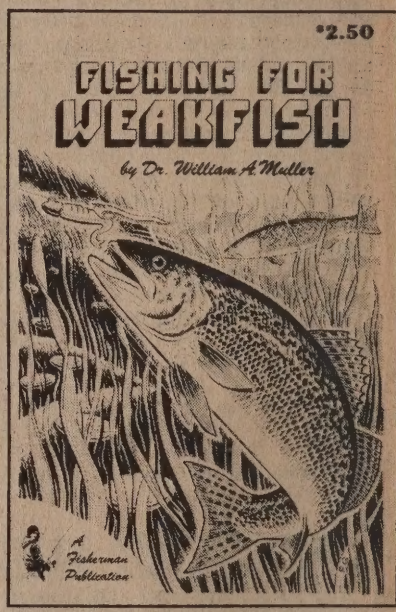

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HOW-TO SPECIAL FEATURE
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PIE-PLATE JIG RIGS

In this corner:
Andy Regina

Finished with that last piece of store-bought pie or cake? If you're a fisherman, the best part is yet to come—no matter how great your craving for sweets is. Most packaged sweet goods (pies, cakes, donuts, whatever) come ready to serve on a gleaming aluminum foil tray. Gobbling up that last tasty slice can become doubly pleasurable if you wash off that foil tray and put it to use to help you catch fish.

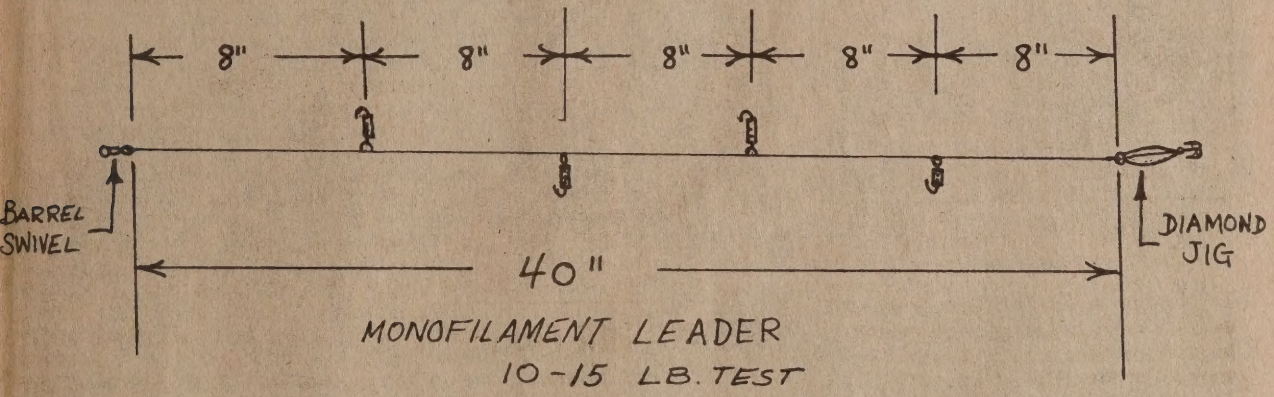
That particular type of foil will not tarnish or rust, and is constructed of a gauge that is heavy enough to retain any bends set into it, without unraveling or opening, as lighter gauges will. This makes it particularly interesting to fishermen, because now you can create a rig that is dynamite for catching fish, and it probably won't cost you a red cent because you probably already have the components in your tackle box.

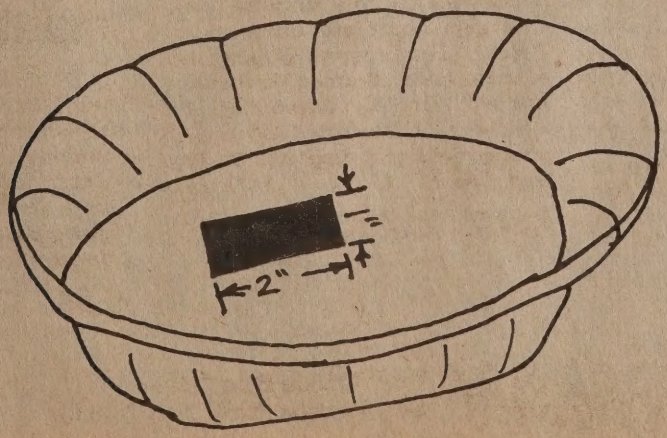
Besides the aforementioned pie plate, needed materials consist of: one four-foot length of monofilament leader or ten or fifteen pound test; one barrel swivel; one small diamond jig, and four Aberdeen hooks, size eight, preferably in a gold finish, and with long or extra-long shanks.

Tie one end of the leader to the swivel, using an improved clinch knot, and the other end into a perfection loop, to enable you to slip a small diamond jig on easily. Now tie four dropper loops into the leader, spacing them so that they are fairly equi-distant from each other, as well as from both ends of the leader. This will place the first dropper loop about eight inches from the swivel, with about that same distance between each succeeding dropper loop, and finally ending up with the last dropper loop falling into place about eight inches from the terminal end, the perfection loop made for the jig.

Force each dropper loop through the eye of a hook so it can be brought down below the barb and bend, enabling you to snug it up tight against the hook eye, holding each hook out at right angles to the leader. Take your foil pan and cut out a strip one inch wide by two inches long; then cut that strip into four equal pieces, each one-half inch by one inch.

Holding the strip lengthwise along the hook shank, roll the foil around the shank while you hold one edge firmly in place, causing the foil to wrap around itself, forming a firm tube around the shank. As mentioned above, the foil will retain its shape, and will not unravel in the water, even after prolonged use. Tying on the jig now makes the rig complete, and ready to use. This rig has caught anchovies, herring, mackerel (both tinker and Boston), whiting, snappers, and school bass—even pilchards and blue runners from a Miami pier, so don't hesitate to use it, and hold on to your rod firmly when you do so!





Brown Bombers & Silver Bullets

Spring Fishing for Cod and Pollack at Montauk

by Scott J. Simons

Last week I wrote in Part One about what I consider to be the greatest fishing experience I've ever had: a spring charter for the staff of **The Fisherman** with Captain John DeMaio for big cod and pollack. In a little over three-and-a-half hours of actual fishing, four fishermen (five, if you count Stu Miller—which you shouldn't) caught seventy-one cod and pollack which had the remarkable combined weight of over 1400 pounds after being **gutted**, which meant that the fish **averaged** more than twenty pounds each. But the most enjoyable aspect of the trip was not the number of fish that we caught, nor even their unusually large size—but the **method** we used.

On the trip out to Block Island, I took the wheel for a short time while the captain shucked a bushel of skimmer clams. John said that this was a precautionary measure, because for the past week virtually all of the fish taken on his charters were **not** taken on bait, but on the diamond jig and tube rig. And it could be expected to continue that way, with the fish preferring the artificial rather than the standard skimmer clam bait, but only as long as you had the "real thing" with you. John feared that somehow the fish would know that he didn't have any skimmer clams aboard and would stop hitting the jigs. In any case, we were well prepared for whichever situation occurred. As it turned out, on this trip the jigs were the key to success; and I imagine that the skimmer clams were frozen and used at a later date.

We used the rods that the captain already had rigged up with diamond jig and tube arrangement that was so popular last year during the spring run. The arrangement is simple: tie the diamond jig (four to eight ounces, depending on drifting conditions) directly to the end of your line with an improved clinch knot. **Do not use a swivel.** Then tie a dropper loop into the line approximately three feet above it. (Distance is not critical between the jig and tube, but three or four feet makes it easier to gaff those double-headers.) Make sure that you tie the dropper loop with a diameter large enough to be capable of passing the tube through its center in order to attach it to the line. Use a small three or four inch tube off an umbrella rig, and don't be overly concerned with the color. Top choices are red, white, natural—but even a fluorescent orange tube was killing them.

The theory behind the rig is simple, but is probably more bull than science: when retrieved through the water, the rig gives the appearance of a large baitfish (the diamond jig) chasing a smaller baitfish (the tube). It was very interesting to note how the fish were selective as to which they hit. When a single pollack (silver bullet) was caught, it had invariably hit the tube, while single catches of cod had invariably taken the jig. If you had a double-header (and there are many in this blitz fishing) of a cod and a pollack, the cod had taken the jig and the pollack—once again—the tube. The **only** time that a cod was taken on the tube was when it was part of a double-header of codfish, and the **only** pollack to take the jig were part of a pollack double-header. The reason, I suspect, was the competitive factors involved. While the cod is basically a bottom hugger, usually not found foraging more than four or five feet off the bottom, the pollack is a mid-level fish and may be found anywhere from the bottom to breaking the surface. Because there were so many predators competing for the available bait, the fish would naturally choose to attack the closest meal. In the case of the cod, which would approach from below, the first "meal" it would see would be the diamond jig. The pollack, approaching from above, would first intercept the tube. It sounds good on paper, and is confirmed by the fact that if you use **only** a diamond jig and dispense with the tube, you **will** catch pollack.

And now for that all-important retrieve, gang. I know a lot of you sharpies out there aren't going to believe this, because I **still** don't, and I was there! The rig is free-spooled out and the reel is simultaneously locked when it touches bottom, in the same manner as when "squidding" for bass, blues and weakfish. But then there is a major, critical change: instead of retrieving the rig rapidly back to the surface, the reel handle is turned **very slowly**—just fast enough to give that tube lure that magic "S" motion through the water. After making only eight or ten of these slow turns, hesitate for a moment, then put the rig back on free spool and repeat the process. The fish will hit the rig at any point of the retrieve, so keep that rod tip low to the water and in a good striking position at all times. I can't overstress the importance of the slow retrieve, although you never know what type of retrieve the fish will want this year. (For example, since the return of the weakfish, I have found that each year you have to retrieve the lure slower and slower to get the fish to hit.)

In any case, last year this slow retrieve was the only method that worked consistently. On this particular trip we had a pair of fishermen in a small center console boat shadowing us all day, often coming remarkably close to a larger boat that would have obviously won a collision hands-down. (This aluminum boat, by the way, didn't have any business being six miles south of Block Island in the first week of May. If a good wind were to have suddenly come up, these yokels would have literally taken a lifetime to get home again.) The reason the boat was shadowing us was simple: we were bailing fish while they were catching like they didn't have a line in the water. The reason was that they were "jigging" their jigs, and they couldn't touch a fish. They were watching us to learn the "secret," which we would gladly have given if a little courtesy had been shown—which it wasn't. In the three hours that they hovered around us, I didn't see them catch a fish while jigging.

The obvious question at this point is why would the fish only take the excrutiatingly slow retrieve. At the time I must admit that I was at a loss for an explanation, but after we had taken a few dozen fish, the reason became apparent. Every once in awhile I caught a pollack that hadn't upchucked the contents of its belly while it was fighting to escape. When I went to unhook the fish and looked down his throat, guess what I saw? A bunch of tails sticking out of his throat! Both the cod and pollack were feeding on the largest sand eels that I have ever seen in my life, as you can see in the photo of me holding one of the sand eels alongside of a jig to show the similarity of

(Continued on page 33.)

Scott holds a giant sandeel that was spit up by a big pollack alongside an Ava-47 diamond jig.

The captain begins cleaning the fish on the way back to Montauk Inlet from Shark's Ledge off Block Island.

Frank hefts a twenty-five pound pollack . Virtually all of the pollack hit the tubes while the cod opted for the jigs.

While gutting the fish, many were found to have bellies almost bursting from giant sandeels and even herring.

Part of the catch of seventy-one cod and pollack taken by four anglers, only an "average" catch last spring.

This disgusting mess of about two-pounds of half-digested sandeels came from the stomach of one fish.

JERKS, LEAD HEAD JIGS & SPRINGTIME WEAKFISH

by Dr. Einar Grell

When the lilacs blossom and not before this occurs, will you catch weakfish in the Great South Bay. Thirty years ago I heard this statement from an old "bay rat" who, at that time, was seventy-five-years old. He had spent a lifetime on the bay. Listening to him, while sitting on a cracker barrel at a local bait and tackle store, was indeed an education on the Great South Bay's fauna and flora; its geomorphology, and more important—how to apply some intelligence to the two "jerks" at each end of a fishing line. Specifically, this article is directed toward the elimination of the tendency by some anglers to become "jerks" when fishing for spring weaks.

Commencing with the opening statement regarding lilacs blooming: what does it mean regarding weaks? Have you checked your lilacs lately? Do you take the temperature of the water in your early weakfish excursions? How many times do you actually freeze your pants off in expectation of catching weaks in the bay when temperatures are in the mid and upper forties? When the lilacs bloom, the water temperatures will be in the fifties, shrimp will appear and—lo and behold, you begin catching weakfish. In brief, lilacs know when to blossom, grass shrimp know when to come forth, and likewise, the weakfish follow. I asked this old-timer before he passed away how he knew this. He remarked, "Are you a jerk; everyone knows this fact. Actually, I learned it from an Indian." Did you know this fact? Or have you been jerking your jigs in a nice cold, clear, clean bay devoid of the ingredients necessary for catching sea trout? If you have come up in the "jerk" category on this fact, don't feel bad. Each year I dream the impossible dream and expect to have a weakfish orgy before the lilacs bloom. To compound the degree of my jerkiness, I constantly employ thermometers, depth meters, fish finders, and try to use my "four eyes" in seeking out the grass shrimp which weaks love to eat. Although I do not see these shrimp and know from my thermometer readings that the water is too cold, I still fish for weaks. This is "jerkiness." My theme in what follows is to eliminate these tendencies to piscatorial idiocy which many anglers display in various ways.

Once the weaks arrive, I begin to get smarter. Do you? Maybe my first, second and third "no fish" catching trips are nothing more than a clearing of my brain of cabin fever after a long winter. Nevertheless, many anglers still come up on the "jerk" category during the prime weakfish catching season.

Suggestions for Eliminating Weakfish Anglers "Jerk Quotients."

Being rather lazy, like most weakfish anglers who do not go the live bait route in the spring, I will be throwing at my squeteague friends a nice variety of lead-headed jigs in the quarter ounce to one ounce weight range. These jigs will simulate the many creatures that weakfish eat: grass shrimp, sand eels, worms, etc.

In order to succeed with a maximum catch in the Great South Bay, one must have a knowledge of the bay geomorphology (condition of bottom such as hard, grass, etc.), currents, tides, and basic ecology.

Ebb Tide Casting and Jigging.

I do not fish up on top of the bay flats in shallow water during an outgoing tide when the weaks are found hugging the bottom in relatively deep water of ten to thirty foot depths. It is in the locations that weaks are gobbling up all the goodies that flow off of the flats during the ebbing tide. It is here that smart fishermen, in a drift or while anchored, cast their jigs onto the shallow banks of a tidal sluiceway or drain and sneakily work their Salty Dogs, Sweetheart Shrimp, Mr. Twisters or small bucktails off the banks, down the slopes into the deep channels with the slowest of retrieves. This casting to a bank of shallow water with a gradual swinging of your lure into the mainstream of current is usually irresistible to weaks and is undoubtedly the best method for fishing weaks during an outgoing tide. If the water is very turbid in a major navigational channel, my 5/16ths or one ounce jigs (the latter weight with extremely strong currents) with white heads are usually tailed with darker colors of the amber, black, blue, or dark red varieties. For some reason or other, weaks see darker colors better than lighter colors in dirty or unclear water. For strong running tides, jig heads which are compressed vertically appear to eliminate the planing tendency and are more effective than those jigs which are compressed horizontally. Jigs which fit the vertical compression recommendation are those of the Hopkins ST Hammertails, Bagley Bugaboo, Screwtail, Grug and Purty Bug group. These lures are in the one-quarter ounce to one ounce range. Of course, heavier horizontally compressed jigs in the one to two ounce weight range will eliminate the tendency towards planing (Smilin' Bills, Salty Dog Shrimp, Tri-Fin, etc.). Heavier jigs, however, eliminate much of the sensitivity and line control which you desire, especially if you are employing light tackle in the six pound test line group. The secret here is to keep your jig close to the bottom where weakies are doing their hugging-the-bottom act. If you are drifting at a very fast rate, it is imperative that your jig be sliding and popping along on the bottom. If you are lazy and have wrist fatigue from casting to the bank, you will be dragging your jig along the bottom without retrieving. Only an occasional slow raising of your rod tip is all that is required to impart a little life and vigor to your lure. However, if you want maximum catch, you must frequently cast your jig onto the bank of the tideway or drain and slowly "walk" it around off the bank, down the slope and into the deeper levels. This method is sure fire for catching weaks on the outgoing tide. You should practice this technique until you are a master at it. Occasionally, take notice to see where your boat is drifting while casting. Many anglers run aground while employing this method. Remember that these drains and navigational channels are not straight-aways. Also keep your eyes on buoys. More than once, I have pinged my thirteen foot Boston Whaler off buoys while being carried away with the fishing.

Fishing the Flood Tide on the Flats.

The best boats for fishing the drains, tidal sluiceways, and the fertile underwater pastures of the Great South Bay "flats" are those which are shallow drafted: those which draw less than two feet of water are preferred. This means thirteen to seventeen foot boats (rowboat, Garveys, small cathedral hull runabouts, etc.) powered by small outboard motors. I use a thirteen foot Boston Whaler skiff with twenty-five horsepower motor and find it ideal. (See picture of rig.)

Before getting under way, it is imperative that you

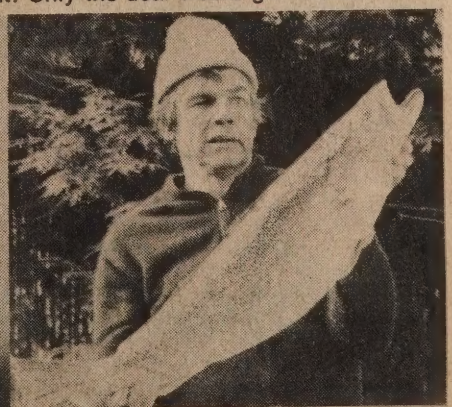
purchase a Department of Commerce Chart 120-SC of this area which is a **must** for your fishing in the bay. Before becoming a successful weakfishermen, you must first become more or less a bay bottom studier, with the emphasis on the **more**. Such a chart gives you depths in feet; describes the status of the bottom (hard, grass, mud, etc.), and points out to you where you are, as well as where the drains and tidal washes are. You will, of course, be marking this chart with your own observed data (tidal pools, areas where you have caught fish, etc.). If you bypass this **must**, you will become a jigging and casting jerk in areas so filled with motor noise and air-filled lead headed flying jigs that you will begin to sense that someone doesn't like you. What I am saying is that ninety-five percent of the weakfishermen fish in approximately five percent of the Great South Bay, while five percent of the weakfish "sharpies" have ninety-five percent of the Great South Bay (which has an average depth of six feet) to themselves. Needless to say, this latter group of lead headed jiggers catch ninety-five percent of the fish at any given time. What I am suggesting here is that you take your map and a small boat and get yourself up onto the grass flats where small tidal pools, mud holes and clear sand openings surrounded by nutritious eelgrass (Zostera marina) and boundless grass shrimp pursued by weakfish, await your fishing pleasure. On the other hand, if you like jigging and casting in an Armada of boats manned by noisy lead headed jig throwers (Ocean Beach area, Heckscher, for example), be my guest.

What to look for and what to do when you have found what you are looking for.

Now that you are convinced that you are going to get away from the crowded navigational channels and do some fishing up on the "flats," what are you going to look for? First, it is imperative that you are fishing the incoming or flood tide and the closer you are to the last two hours of the flooding tide, the better. I have had my greatest days weakfishing at this time in three to four foot tidal mud pools which are seen in the grassy flats of the bay as cloudy water. For some reason or another, these muddy areas are loaded with grass shrimp. These mud areas are not too large, ranging in size from one hundred feet in length to half that distance in width. It is here I anchor up and begin to cast my 5/16ths ounce dark colored lead headed plastic shrimp. It is essential that you are very quiet; no motor noise. When casting in these areas, retrieve your jig very slowly with slight twitches of the rod tip. It is interesting to note that when fishing these muddy areas with lead headed jigs, the weaks will also hit small one-quarter ounce lead headed bucktails (white or yellow) with almost the same intensity that they will strike dark colored Salty Dog shrimp, Grub shrimp, Mr. Twisters and Bugaboo plastic shrimp. My favorite plastic tails have also been those produced by Bagley, which come in a wide variety of tail colors ranging from smoke, amber, chartreuse, shrimp pink, lime green, bright orange, mustard, white, and yellow. Again, use the darker colors for these mud holes.

If you prefer to drift across these underwater pastures as you are casting to and fro, look for these muddy patches which appear as shiny, bright spots in clear water. Even on a bright, clear day, these mud spots will produce weaks when other well-trafficked navigational channels offer a very poor "pick." Early morning and late evening hours with an approaching top of the flood tide will also reveal to you many startling features of sea trout such as big females skegging and pushing water on the surface similar to miniature submarines running slowly on the surface. Casting to these fish with light tackle and hooking into one in shallow water offers far greater fishing thrills than jerking weaks in deep water channels from beneath another guy's boat. In shallow water, a weak cannot "sound" (take a deep dive). He must move horizontally and, confronted with this predicament, he usually shows his stuff. Fast runs for a deeper tidal pool, reversals, under your boat, jumps and skips...you name it. On light tackle this is a fishing challenge. I have had many weaks in the six to ten pound weight range make one hundred foot runs, stop and reverse the same distance. Keeping the rod tip up and maintaining a tight line on an easily torn weakfish mouth is what it is all about.

By now you should be able to see the advantage of having a shallow draft boat which will enable you to enter a drain or tidal sluiceway on the flood tide. You can drift through the drain up and onto the rim of a drain and then continue your drift out and over the underwater pastures looking for the muddy patches and tidal pools. You also lose all of your company and followers on their twenty to thirty-five foot "destroyers." If you prefer to keep drifting, fine. My suggestion, however, is that when you find a muddy patch, anchor up for fifteen minutes and throw some lead headed jigs into the patches and perimeters of the patches. If you catch nothing in a particular patch, keep drifting across the flats until you find other spots with these characteristics. It is also interesting to note that drifting with the incoming tide will take you away from one fishing fleet into another fishing fleet, since the Great South Bay is crisscrossed with navigational channels. For example, a flood tide drift through a drain just east of Snakehill Channel will eventually take you across the flats into Dickerson Channel. Drifts through drains in back of West and East Fire Islands will eventually take you into the crowded areas off Heckscher State Park. If you are lonesome, you can always find the gang fishing in one area or another. Most of the time you will bump into them too soon. They make noise and weakfish do not like noise. Remember **that** when you are dropping your beer cans on your deck or moving your tackle box around. Fishing with noise is taboo! If you are catching fish and someone approaches you with a noisy boat, you can count on at least fifteen minutes of "no fish," and that is after your buddy shuts his motor off. You probably can see now why on a Saturday or Sunday off Ocean Beach there really are not too many weakfish caught. Only the deaf weaks get hooked.



Doc Grell, above, with a teen-size weakfish taken in Great South Bay. An assortment of deadly lures for weakfish is shown at left.

MAY WEAKFISH

BY FRED GUARDINEER

HARD HITTING NORTHERN WEAKFISH MAKE THEIR SPAWNING RUN IN MAY ARRIVING AT THE INSHORE AREAS OF NEW JERSEY, NEW ENGLAND AND LONG ISLAND'S PECONIC AND GREAT SOUTH BAYS WHERE THE ACTION CAN GET WILD – ESPECIALLY AT NIGHT!

WEAKS ARE MEMBERS OF THE DRUM FAMILY AND ARE ONLY "WEAK" IN THE MOUTH. ALWAYS USE A NET. AVERAGE 3 LBS. CAN GO 10 TO 15 LBS.

MYRIADS OF JIGS, LURES AND PLUGS SUCCESSFULLY TAKE WEAKS SUCH AS THE MACKEREL PLUG AND THE RED AND WHITE SHRIMP. WEAKS ALSO COME INTO A MOSS BUNKER CHUM SLICK.

BAITS ARE SQUID, CLAM, BLOOD AND SANDWORMS OFTEN COMBINED WITH CASTING JIGS.

PLASTIC WORM

SANDWORM ATTACHED TO SMALL WEAKFISH DIAMOND JIG FOR OFFSHORE WEAKS IN 40 FT. OF WATER.

SLAUGHTER AT NIGHT DECIMATES THE SCHOOLS OF SPAWNING WEAKFISH ON THE SOUTH BAY FLATS OFF ISLIP, L.I. BY PART TIME GILLNETTERS AND "SPORTSMEN" DESPITE EFFORTS BY CONCERNED L.I. FISHERMEN TO PROTECT THESE FISH UNTIL THEY CAN AT LEAST HAVE A CHANCE TO REPRODUCE.

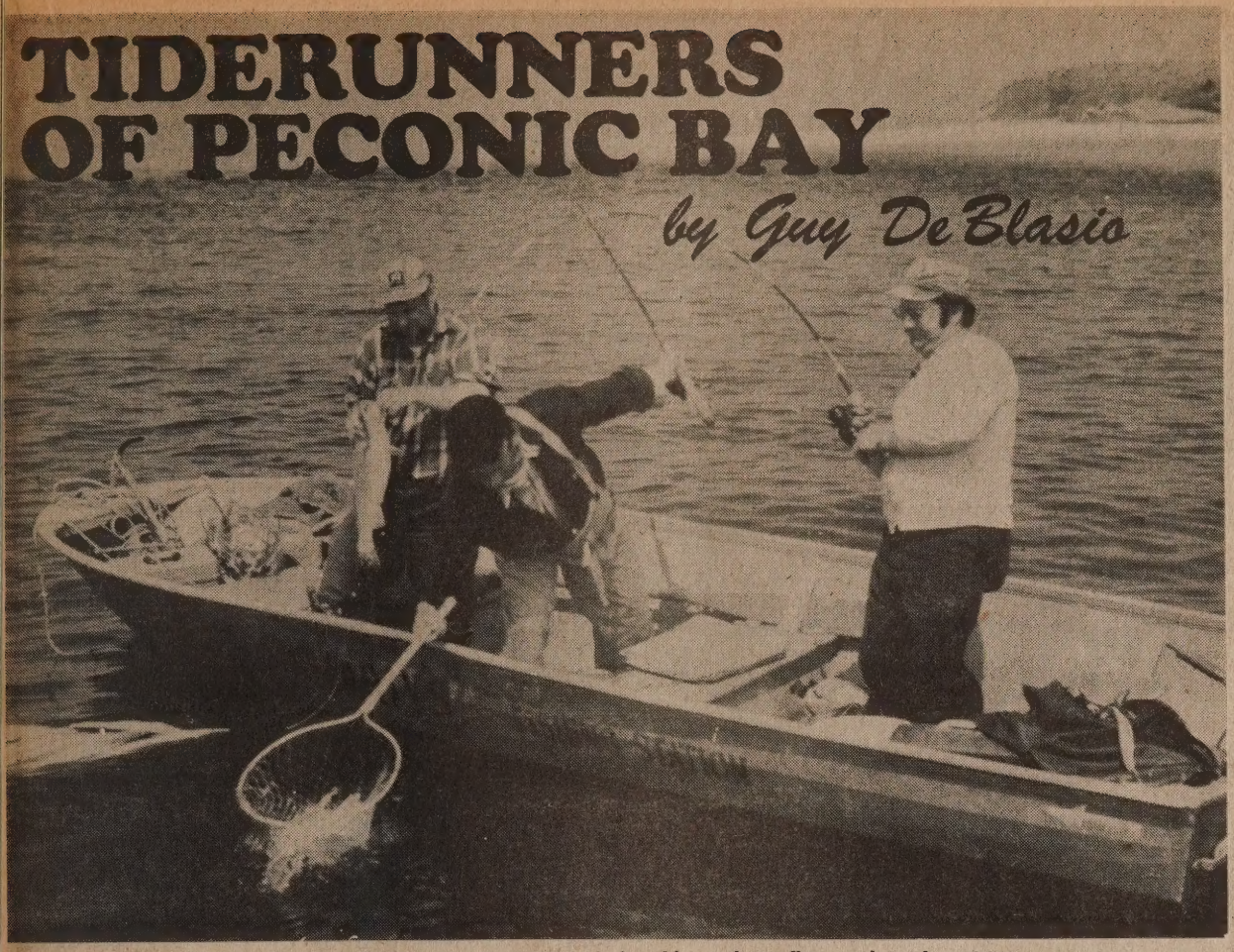
3 FT. LEADER

WEAKFISH HI-LOW BOTTOM RIG ALSO GETS PORGIES, FLUKE, KINGFISH, SEA BASS, BLOWFISH AND LOVABLE SCRAPPY SEA ROBINS!

18"

TIDERUNNERS OF PECONIC BAY

by Guy DeBlasio



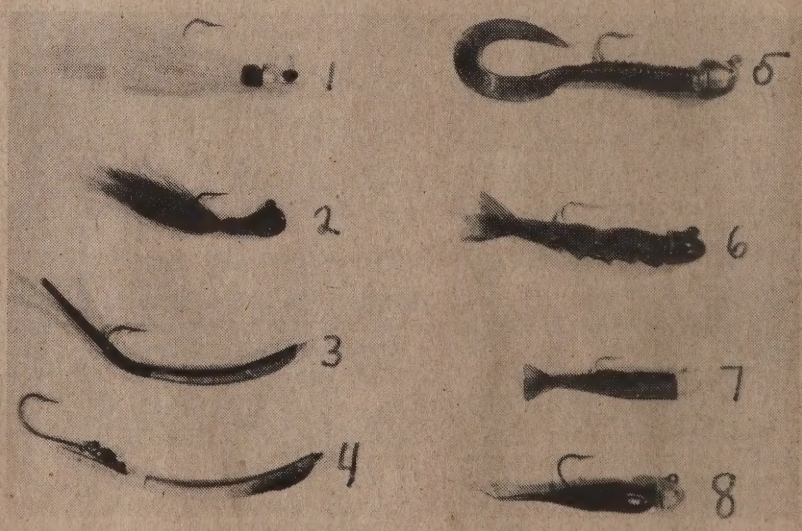
Working the rip at Robin's Island on the out-going tide produces fine catches of weakfish.

May means the introduction to summer for a lot of people, but for me, it marks the beginning of our weakfish run here in the Peconics. The fish arrive each spring in huge schools to spawn. Once this act of Mother Nature has been completed, the weaks go on a feeding frenzy. Another reason that makes the Peconics a hotspot for weakfish is its environment. The Bay complex has a lot of eddies, fast currents, rips, and water depths vary from ten feet to twenty-five!. Thus there are many dropoffs where weaks like to hang out and wait for their lunch. Also the Bay has a great abundance of natural bait for the tiderunners to feed on: grass shrimp, squid, spearing, snappers, calico crabs, and even small porgies. These are but a few samples which I have found in the stomachs of weaks. I have made it a practice of mine to cut open the first few fish I catch to find out what they're feeding on and try to duplicate it either with a lure to try to obtain some of the natural bait they're feeding on. This has increased my catch twofold. As for artificial lures, there are a wide variety which will take weakfish, such as the Salty Dog, Mr. Twister, Bucktails; the new Tri-Fin Sand Eels, and the Mirror Lure deep runner. These are but a few out of many. The best colors I found are: pink, yellow, purple, white, and amber. When fishing the Salty Dog or the Mr. Twister add a strip of squid three or four inches long—this can make the difference. When fishing lures like the ones mentioned and shown in the illustration, I use 6-12-15 pound test line. I find the light line presents the lure more naturally and when hooked up to a weakfish on light gear, you're in for a real good time. The rods I use are from heavy freshwater to light saltwater, like seven-and-a-half foot rods with Garcia Mitchell 300 and a medium action eight-foot rod with a Penn 155 reel loaded with twenty pound mono; this outfit is good when I fish the high-low rig or just when I use a high rig. When fishing bait, I use sand worms, calico crabs, squid strips, and when I can get them—grass shrimp. Some of the places I fish are the southern end of Robin's Island which is called the South Race; from buoy 32 to buoy 25. Rose Grove, Jessup's Neck, Buoys 17 and 18 are other areas which produce fish. When drifting, the Salty Dog should be allowed to bounce off the bottom, whereas the Mr. Twister is cast and retrieved slowly. The high rig is fished when I have live bait; the high-low rig is fished when I use squid strips and sand worms. If you never fished for weakfish before, or you're an inexperienced weakfisherman, I believe that Dr. William A. Muller's book, "Fishing for Weakfish" should be part of every fisherman's library; it is by far the best weakfish book ever published in my opinion.

It was 7 AM as we shoved off from Capt. Marty's Fishing Station, heading in the direction of the South Race which lies between Robin's Island and Cow's Neck. On the way, my friend Joe and I began to cut the squid into three to four inch strips, as my brother Bill took over the helm. Once the bait was cut, I placed the strips of squid in individual coffee cans and added salt water. This has two purposes: it keeps the bait fresh and doesn't dry out, and everyone has their own bait container. When cutting squid, don't throw away the heads—they make very good bait. I took the helm once again. I proceeded to buoy 30 which lies a little west of Robin's Island. Once there, we started our drift. The tide was on its ebb. As I looked toward buoy 25 that lies off the Island, I could see a cluster of small craft. I put my glasses on them, but there wasn't much going on except an occasional fish being taken. Bill was casting a pink Mr. Twister with a strip of squid; Joe was bouncing a pink Salty Dog with squid, and I was fishing the high-low rig with the head from one of the squid on the low hook and sand worms on the top

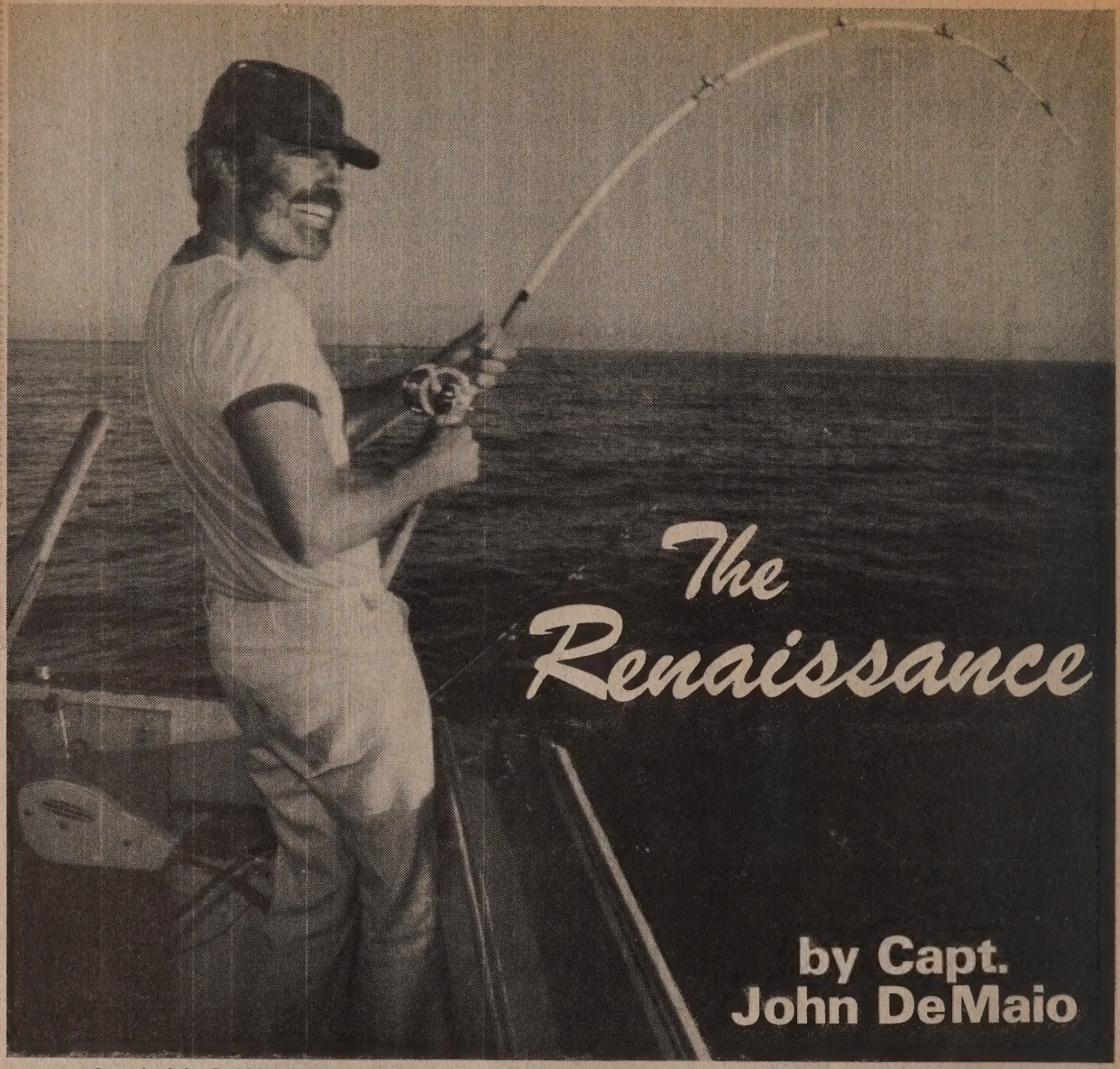
The rip at the southern tip of Robin's Island. Run up on the flats on the ebb and cast into the turbulent water as you drift off.

hook. Fishing this way, you cover casting and retrieving, bouncing a lure off the bottom, and drifting bait. The size of the hook I use is a 1/0 or 2/0 hook. Sinker sizes vary from fishing the flats to the deep channels to the dropoffs. About ten minutes into the drift, Joe had one on; after a few minutes I netted a six to seven pounder. Bill made a cast up-tide and was into a fish right away. All of a sudden, my rod bent and I was in. Before Bill or I could get our fish to the boat, Joe yelled out "one on." Bill netted another six to seven pounder and Joe landed a nice fish of about nine pounds, but my fish was a hell of a lot tougher, taking line at will. The fish dictated my movements by leading me up to the bow and around and back to the stern again. With Bill close behind with the net, I finally saw the fish, but it wasn't large enough to cause this type of problem—it was about eight pounds. Then we saw the bottom hook, which also had a weakfish on it about the same size. Joe then grabbed a net, within a minute or so both fish were flopping in the boat. It went this way for most of the day. Later in the day we fished the rips off Robin's Island which I read about in Dr. Muller's book. We ran up past the rip, casting our Mr. Twisters and Salty Dogs into the shallow water, allowing it to bounce along the dropoff. Well, to make a long story short, we took fourteen tiderunner weakfish, including one fish of twelve-and-a-half pounds. The day's catch was impressive and was weighed in at Capt. Marty's Fishing Station.



1 and 2—Bucktails.
3 and 4—Tri-Fin Sand Eel Jigs.
5—Mister Twister Tail.
6, 7 and 8—Plastic Shrimp.

Save the head of the squid—it makes a great bait when drifted with a high-leader rig.



The Renaissance

by Capt. John DeMaio

Captain John DeMaio doing his thing on station at Great Eastern off Montauk Point. ***Photo by Dr. W.A. Muller.***

The method of diamond jigging has gained tremendously in popularity the past two years. The publicity I have received has certainly helped put jigging into public light. I would like to take credit for this renaissance, but it is not true. Like many others I, also, am riding the crest of a fad. The widespread use of diamond jigs has come to be because it has met the needs of current fishing and satisfied the demands of the smarter and more skillful angler.

Montauk is not the only port where this method is practiced. For many years now, the Sheepshead Bay open boat fleet has used jigs only in pursuit of bluefish. Don't forget the Jersey shore also. They discovered that you can get away without chumming during the day, and fish jigs only! This has delighted the boat owners and crew because they save the money normally spent on chum and make a few extra bucks selling lures. Saving money has also helped the private boat fisherman's pocket, and the elimination of chum has made getting the day started a lot simpler.

Compare diamond jigging to trolling and you can come up with a couple of important plus factors.

Most boats fish only two lines when trolling; three at the most. When jigging, everyone can pick up a rod and fish. (This has pros and cons which I will discuss later.)

Small boats are not ideal for trolling: the bigger the better, when trolling. Larger boats usually have a keel and should have plenty of weight in the water. This gives them the ability to stay on course and, therefore, have your trolled lines working correctly, whereas the small boat will be pushed easily by wind, wave, and tide. Outboards are notorious for this.

Now, more about everyone picking up a rod. In most situations, the more lines fishing the better. More jigs flashing down below should attract even more fish; better yet, you can hold the fish on a drift. This happens quite often on open bottom with bluefish, codfish, pollack, and sometimes weakfish. Just about all fishes regurgitate what is in their stomachs once they are hooked and are being reeled in. This sets up a natural chum slick which can hold a portion of fish for a time, or distance.

With the striped bass, this rule does not apply. Bass will rarely move off a piece of bottom; a feeding station. Worse yet, it is possible to turn off the fish to the lures being used if one or two of the anglers do not present the lure to the fish in the desired manner. This rarely happens, but I have seen it on many occasions—to my frustration.

Sometimes the boat will be responsible for catching the fish and not the fisherman. All boats vary in size, shape, and the all-important "drift." They all drift differently—depending on wind, tide, or your wish to

maintain a position in the water. No two boats react the same. The movement of the boat related to the movement of the bait and fish can often make the difference. This is why sometimes one boat in particular will catch well, while surrounding boats are hurting. All things considered, of course.

Dick Vigilant of the charter boat, Triton, has proven to me more than once the power of many lures. He often charters groups of more than six men; maybe as many as twenty. Many a day, we have been alongside each other chasing blues and weaks and I was able to observe firsthand the adage of "the more, the merrier." (Not only blues and weaks, but cod and pollack.) If we both stopped close by on a body of fish, my three fishermen would start off as good as his, but eventually his larger group would go on pulling fish, often causing me to move in search of my own school of fish. Also, when fishing is tough, the multitude of lures will help you pick away. All this isn't a set rule, but it has and will happen.

Not only has the demand for diamond jigging caused more charter boats to use the technique, but the fishing style requires it. As an example, this year's weakfishing almost demanded the need to jig. Huge schools of weaks could be found in tight bunches—really tight! Because of traffic, the trolling method did not allow one enough time over the fish. One pass through, if even possible, and that would be it. The jigs were different. You would locate the heaviest concentration of fish on your recorder, stop, and lower the lures. In this manner you could stay with the fish for a period of time. So, between the need and the demand, even some traditional trollers were swinging jigs last season; I suspect even more will do it this year.

Unfortunately, this will present a problem to the charter boat captains. Let me explain why. Diamond jigging is not for everyone. The angler is required to have some experience and some ability in using his tackle, which is why many a captain may be reluctant to take a party jig fishing. He also might believe that the trolling method would be more productive on a given day due to conditions.

This opens up another can of worms. Too many people measure the day's fishing success by **how many** fish they catch, not **how** they catch the fish. Regardless of popular trends, the umbrella rig is unbeatable in production, so obviously it is the favorite method of the charter boat fleet. More skippers would rather return to the dock with a sensible catch instead of loading up with fish just to stay in competition with the rest of the fleet. I try to spend the entire fishing trip jigging, or casting when ideal; still I am forced to troll at times. What I will not do is turn to trolling because the trollers are outfishing the jiggers. In essence, a matching of fish to the fishermen, and the day's fishing conditions are necessary for productive jig fishing.

Blues, weaks, cod, and pollack are often so obliging that the lure will have a fish before it even hits the bottom. On these occasions, everyone is a crackerjack fishermen. Nor is it true that umbrellas will always outfish the jigs.

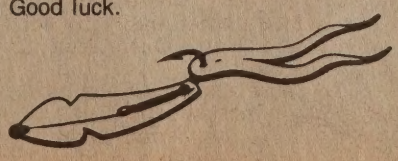
Naturally, the lure makers have followed the trend and have assaulted the market with a wide variety of offerings. Even the Banana belongs to the jigging style of fishing, and should be considered as such. The traditional four-sided chrome-plated diamond jig is still number one, but very often is outfished by market competitors. This fall saw the successful use of jig and tube combinations (adding a surgical tube hook to a diamond jig); plus, the jig was also covered with the same color tubing. It was even successful catching bass—which surprised me. I believe the success was partially due to a period of dirty water conditions that made the larger and more colorful lure easy to see. Under these conditions, I have often been successful with old jigs painted white.

Even I jumped on the bandwagon and came up with a winning jig-type lure. It broke away from the conventional four-sided diamond jig—not only in shape, but in action. My lure is cylindrical in shape, about the size of a pencil. When retrieved, it will spin like a tube lure. It is one dynamite lure when the fish are feeding on sand eels.

I did not invent this lure: I did develop it. This year, AVA Tackle will manufacture the lure. You can bet your last buck that many other tackle makers will also have their versions. Tri-Fin Lures is already in production with a Sand-Eel Jig.

More and more combinations will come into being. The use of tubing is endless. Weight, color, and shape will make the difference. With a larger group using jigs, more experimenting will take place, producing more variations. The changes on many will be subtle. Remember, the simple chrome-plated diamond jig is a perfect lure; the old standby. Always consider using the standby before going into the exotic variations.

This year will see even more anglers using the jig. What was once the lure of the minority, is becoming the favorite of the masses. Popularity is only maintained by production. How far in the future the diamond jig will remain a hot item is uncertain. My belief is that it will last as long as there are fish to be caught. Once you have entered the diamond jig syndrome, you will find it difficult to return to some of the other methods. Good luck.



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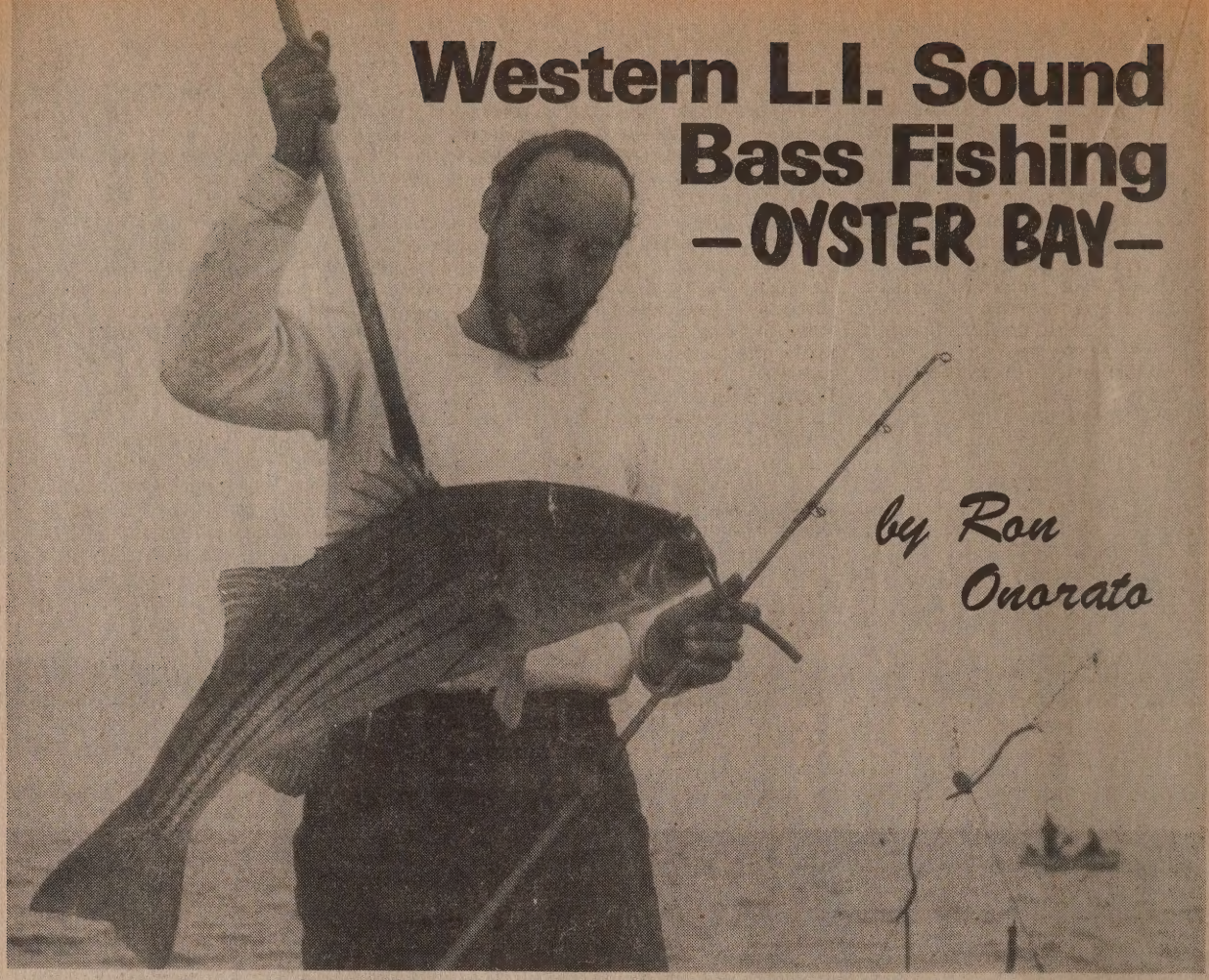
Western L.I. Sound Bass Fishing —OYSTER BAY—

by Ron Onorato



Ray Bennett Shows a 25-lb. striped bass taken on an umbrella rig off Centre Island Reef.

Oyster Bay has always reminded me of Montauk whenever bass fishing is mentioned. Perhaps it is because Oyster Bay is big bass water like Montauk; or maybe because much of the best fishing is to be found under cloak of darkness. For whatever reason, however, Oyster Bay and adjacent Cold Spring Harbor are perhaps the best of the western Sound areas for producing cow striped bass. Although Hempstead Harbor yields a greater number of fish, Oyster Bay will give up bigger fish more consistently. This region also marks the eastern boundary of what is considered to be the western Long Island Sound pocket. From Lloyd's Neck and eastward to Orient Point, the area is wide open to the bass fisherman, and with the possible exception of Eaton's Neck, receives very little fishing pressure.

As tribute to its still pristine water quality, both the Bay and Harbor still nurture a clam and oyster industry. Many acres of salt marshes also thrive in the back reaches of the Bay, and in fact a small run of herring is sustained in the area where freshwater Beaver Lake spills over into Mill Neck Creek. Many years ago, some of the winter-over stripers would follow these herring and feed upon them in late March and early April. Industry and commercial development is severely restricted in this area, so it looks like Oyster Bay will be healthy for many years to come.

In the early Seventies, both the Sound side and inner harbor areas of Oyster Bay, were the scenes of some really wild bass and bluefish action. Like many of the other north shore areas, Oyster Bay and Cold Spring Harbor have been a little quiet in recent years. Many hours are required to take fish which, in years past, would have been taken in minutes. However, 1977 was what many considered to be a fair year for big bass. The hard and dedicated striper fishermen took some fairly good quantities of cow bass; however, for the occasional striper fisherman, things were tough.

Unlike Hempstead Harbor, which is basically a rocky area consisting of reefs, jetties, and rips, this area has a combination of marsh banks and rocky patches scattered throughout the area. Connecting the Oyster Bay peninsula to the mainland is the Bayville Bridge, and it is here that some of the biggest Long Island Sound stripers have been caught.

The first action gets under way around the end of March or early April as some of the winter-over bass move out to various parts of the harbor. It usually isn't until the middle of May that the migrating stripers, both from the Hudson and Chesapeake, make their appearances. Good daytime fishing can be found through much of the month of June, but after that, it is almost exclusively nighttime fishing around the periods of the full moon.

Like so many of the other north shore areas, one of the controlling factors as to the quantity of big bass that can be found in the region is the supply of mossbunkers. When the bunkers are plentiful, so are the bass and big bluefish. This is very critical, because the big fish in this area do not take big plugs too readily in the harbor—except at night. If there are few bunkers around, the daytime fishing for big fish will really suffer. It is my opinion that because of the excellent water clarity of Oyster Bay, the fish don't respond as well to artificial lures as they do in some of the other Sound areas where the water clarity is very poor.

Oyster Bay and Cold Spring Harbor are the bait fisherman's paradise. With the exception of Centre Island Reef, where many big fish can be trolled on artificial lures, many of the other hotspots lend themselves very nicely to the bait fisherman. The big three up here are live bunkers or baby

lackfish, live eels, and sand worms. he bunkers or blackfish are best sed when the sun is up over the orizon; while the live eels are most ffective during the evening hours. he same holds true for the sand vorm trollers: the cover of darkness llows for optimum use of the quirmers. How to fish these baits has een dealt with at length in past rticles; so we're going to cover the rea as basically a "where-to" article.

The first, and foremost of the fish roducers has got to be Centre Island Reef which, in my opinion, is one of he finest striper shoals on the entire orth shore. The reef, which is also a uper blackfish spot, is found at the astern-most end of the Bayville eninsula. It is really an enormous iece of ground that has a couple of ills and gullies scattered throughout he length of the shoal. The northern nd of the reef is marked by the #17 ell buoy, which is about one nautical ile from the beach. The western dge starts just at the end of Bayville Beach and runs for about three-quar-ers of a mile before dropping off to he deep water of Cold Spring Harbor. So as you can see by this, and by looking at the piece on a nautical chart, the reef is really an enormous piece of ground. Like so many of the other north shore striper shoals, not all pieces of the reef hold fish, but rather it is the small underwater hills and humps that hold the fish.

You can sometimes plug fish from the reef when you cast among the rocky boulders that dot the shore line of Centre Island. Actually, the best place to cast from a boat is at the far eastern edge of the reef where it meets at the mouth of Cold Spring Harbor. On a falling tide, school fish, as well as an occasional larger fish, move in along the rocks from various parts of the reef to feed.

The reef itself can be fished with live bait, or can be trolled with just about equally good results. Before anyone starts trolling in this area, they should make a couple of passes over the area with the depth recorder and pick up on some of the pieces. Whenever a little bump is marked, you should take a shore range and then base your trolling pattern on the shore range. It is amazing that so few fishermen bother with details like this. Most fishermen wander any which way on the reef and might pick a fish if they are lucky. There are a handful of local fishermen who work the pieces on the reef in such a methodical manner, that they drive the other fishermen crazy. Let's face it, the days of blind trolling and catching fish are over; today you have to be keenly aware of the variables or else you're going to strike out. Whenever you see someone take a fish, make a shore range and when you have a chance, make the same pass.

Most of the pieces on the reef are in about twelve to fifteen feet of water, so there is no need to use more than one hundred to one hundred twenty-five feet of wire. You'll want to get the lure as close to the bottom as possible without fouling into the rocks. Two lures are used with much success up here— the umbrella rig and surgical tube lure. All red umbrella rigs seem to be the most consistent catchers, with the surge tube lure not far behind. Most of the locals use the Tri-Fin surge tubes with good results. All red or natural amber colors seem to draw the most hits. These lures come with lead heads, so in order to keep the lure just off the bottom, stay with the smaller size tubes; for example, the three ounce model. Bucktails and plugs which are so effective elsewhere, produce very little on the reef.

As you come to the eastern end of the reef and look south, you'll see a series of marsh banks to your right, and they continue down the length of the shore for about a half-mile. If there are any small bass around, you can usually stir up a few with cast swimming plugs.

Right across from the Centre Island Peninsula is Cooper's Bluff, and it is here where you will find some of the best bass fishing in the area. Cooper's Bluff has been written about in some of the national fishing magazines as testimony to its reputation. In 1973, and again in 1974, Cooper's Bluff was the scene of some of the wildest bunker fishing for big striped bass. For a three-day period, during the third week of June, pods of cow bass would line up just to the east of the bluff and massacre schools of bunker as they were swept past the bluff by the swift current. If you were there with bunker on an ebbing tide, you couldn't help but catch fish. Some of the better fishermen took a dozen fat pigs, and just about everyone had a fish or two to take home.

Admittedly, the bluff has been a little quiet, but night fishing with live eels produced some fair catches for the nocturnal fishermen last season. Oyster Bay Harbor meets Cold Spring Harbor at the bluff, and some pretty heavy tides run through here. There is a very sudden dropoff here, and the bass lie on the deep side of the dropoff, waiting for bait fish to be swept by on the ebbing tides.

One of my favorite spots is the famous Bayville Bridge that connects the Mill Neck mainland with the Bayville Peninsula. This, too, has been written about in several publications as testimony to its productivity. Bass and bridges go hand-in-hand. All sorts of bait fish hang out around the piles and supports of the span, and the bass—which never miss an opportunity to feed easily—forage on the easy bait supply around the bridge. The bridge itself is basically small as bridges go, but it was built in an excellent area. To the west is Mill Creek and its acres of salt marshes and creeks, and on every ebb tide, it flushes its resident bait supply past the bridge. The bass lie on the east side of the bridge, and if they are heavy, on the west side as well, and face into the current. As the small bait is jostled about by the tide, the bass snap them up before they become oriented again.

The bunker fishermen score with the big fish during the daylight hours; while the eel and worm fishermen take over when the sun gets below the horizon. You pull the boat up close to the bridge supports and then drift your baits out with the current. Don't be afraid to spend a little time here, as the bass may only feed at a small stage of the tide. If bait isn't available, small bucktail jigs cast near the bridge supports have taken fish.

Some of the rocky areas along the east side of Cold Spring Harbor produce fish for the pluggers, and during the early morning hours, the back creeks of Mill Neck will also yield an occasional fish. Conditions change each year, so you have to familiarize yourself with them to be productive. While you may not set the world on fire, with a little effort and common sense, you'll put some fish in the boat.

Author shows a pair of 25-pound striped bass taken off Cooper's Bluff on the north shore with a live bunker.

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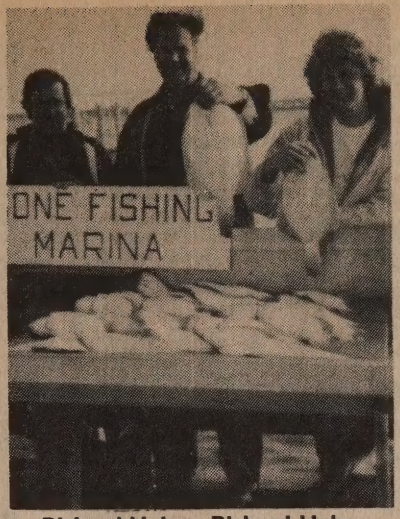
MONTAUK
★ BEST BET ★
Cod & Pollack

This week when we were making our calls on Sunday evening, we got our first confirmed report of a school of large pollack in the area south of Block Island. Several charter boats fishing late in the afternoon discovered a school of pollack and took upwards of ten pollack each in a short blitz before the school was lost. The fish were all in the 20 lb. range, the same class of fish that were caught during last year's phenomenal spring run. But the gale winds blowing on Sunday and Monday prevented boats from returning to the area, so we have nothing to report, but there is a large amount of sand eels in the area and this catch more than likely signals the start of another phenomenal spring run.

Capt. Paul Forsberg of the **Viking Fishing Fleet** reported that the weekend fishing was down due to the high winds and rain. Saturday's fishing was slow, but the action was good on Sunday until the wind came up. Paul said that the **Viking Starship** has been taking a few big pollack whenever it has fished Coxes Ledge, and a couple of the local charter boats hit into a school of big pollack south of Block Island late Saturday afternoon. The pool fish on Saturday was taken by Jimmy Malenzi of New Jersey with a 25 lb. cod that netted him $346. Jimmy returned on Sunday to take the pool two days running with a 31 lb. cod worth $198. The Captain said that the Georges Bank trip that was scheduled to leave last Sunday night was cancelled due to the high winds and the Three Day Georges Bank Safari trip has been rescheduled to leave on May 22, a Sunday night at 12:01 a.m. The Viking Starship will return on Wednesday, the twenty-fourth. Paul also said that he has a few openings on the two day Georges Bank Safari on May 30 and 31, a Tuesday and Wednesday. Give the Captain a call for further infor and reservations.

Two men pulled in 38 snowshoe flounder up to 3½ lbs. in only 3 hours of fishing at Promised Land aboard Capt. John DeMaio's charterboat Vivienne.



Richard Huber; Richard Huber, Jr., from Queens and Gary Beyer from Manhattan caught 35 to 40 snowshoe flounder at Washington Shoal on clams. Several of the fish were four pounds plus. Photo courtesy Gone Fishing Marina.

Capt. Fred Bird of the **Flying Cloud** called to report that the codfishing remained very good during the week and that the tubes and diamond jigs are starting to pick up pollack in the 20 lb. class. The captain said that he has found the best action at Cartwright Grounds, but you have to be patient and wait out the dogfish. The captain asked us to relay the word to our readers that he is now sailing daily with a new boat, still named the Flying Cloud. The boat is 64 feet long, with a 20 foot beam and carries a capacity of 80.

Captain Bud Dorman of the **Viking Skipper II** called to say that he has found the fishing at Southwest Ledge to be the best at that area in at least five years, and there are enough cod there to spend the entire day. A lot of anglers are going home with a dozen or more nice cod daily and the fish are averaging 5 to 12 lbs., with an occasional 30 pounder thrown in. Saturday was a particularly tough day due to the weather, but the captain still managed an average of 3½ cod per man. But he said that he heard on the radio that some charterboats that fished late on Saturday south of Block Island hit into a body of big pollack and bailed them for a short time on diamond jigs and tubes. He said that he has been marking a lot of fish on the machine and you can pick a few cod off of almost every decent bottom formation. This weekend, the **Viking Skipper II** will not be sailing because the Captain and his wife will be away attending the college graduation of their lovely daughter.

Capt. Art Mundy of the charter boat **Darius II** said that he found excellent codfishing off Cartwright on Thursday and Friday. Thursday's score was 85 cod, and 66 fish weighing 550 lbs. were taken on Friday. The largest fish has been 18 lbs., with the average running 5 to 8 lbs. Virtually all of the cod were taken on bait, but a couple of big pollack took the jigs. The captain noted that the area is swamped with bait fish and the cod when gutted have yielded sand eels, squid and even baby dogfish. Fishing has been done while anchored without the aid of chum. Art said that the trick is to keep away from the dogfish by using only a single hook

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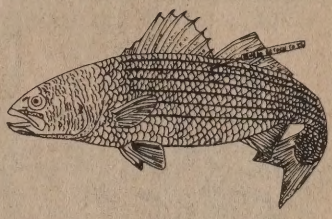

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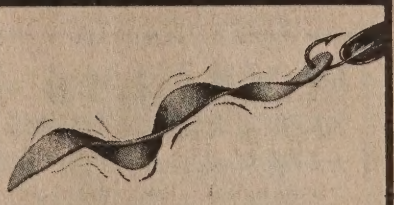

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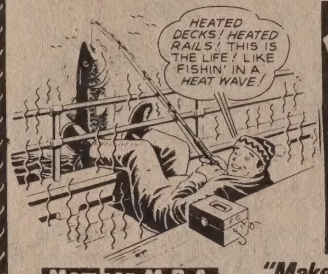

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BROWN BOMBERS & SILVER BULLETS

(Continued from page 18.)

size and shape. And the abundance of the sand eels that the fish were feeding on became clear when John started gutting the fish at the end of the day. In one of the photos you can see the contents taken out of the belly of a twenty-nine pound pollack-a mess of half-digested sand eels that I estimated to weigh **two pounds**! Many of the fish had their bellies full of sand eels packed like a can of sardines in a neat row. The tails always pointed in the same direction—towards the mouth—which means that the pollack attacks prey head-first, just like striped bass are prone to do.

So the solution to why the slow retrieve was working while a fast retrieve or jigging action would not was that simple: the fish were just too full to give them any incentive to expend unnecessary energy chasing a fisherman's rig. But if you put the tube or jig right in front of them and they could grab it with little effort, you were in business. This could all go out the window, naturally, if the sand eels aren't as abundant as last year. But try starting with the slow retrieve and work your way up to the conventional retrieves, while a buddy also experiments. Don't feel limited by the rig I have described, either; there is a lot of room for experimentation. Lures which I am sure will produce are the Vi-Ke Jig by Bridgeport and the new Sandeel Jig by Tri-Fin Lures. The colored diamond jigs with a tube-hook should also work reasonably well, and I know that the hard-to-get DeMaio Jig works.

Last week I predicted in part one of this article that the conditions were right for the spring run of pollack to begin this week. Well I was close, but no cigar. Although the first body of giant pollack was discovered by a few charterboats fishing south of Block Island late Saturday afternoon (see the Montauk fishing Reports on page 31), the run hasn't fully materialized. But the catches made Saturday afternoon, the large amount of sandeels in the area and the fact that the water temperature is rising daily make me feel certain that this weekend should see a repeat of the blitz-type fishing of '77. So don't miss out on it! One final word: Already I have received word that the "mosquito fleet" of small boats is starting to find their way to the Block Island grounds. Please, we need every subscriber we can get—leave those outboards at home and either make a charter or sail on one of the open boats!

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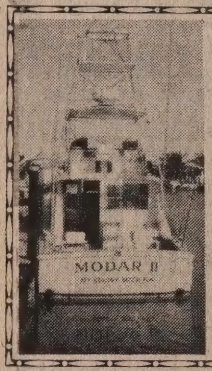

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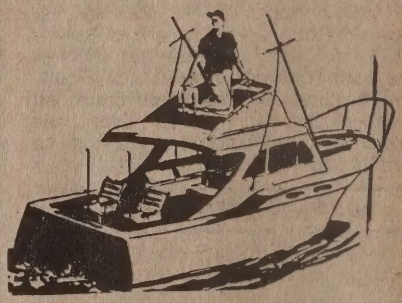

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rigged about 4 feet off the bottom. Mackerel are also in the area.

Charter boat **Free Spirit** called to tell us that Saturday's charter for cod and pollack was very good at Cartwright, but bad weather on Sunday caused Capt. Frank to fish the north side at Rocky Point, where they got seven big flounder. Later in the day, he whipped out to Cartwright and filled the pail with flounder. Frank says this weekend he is starting combo cod, pollack and shark trips, and you can call him if you want details.

Capt. Ron on the **Julie III** tells us that he and Pat Kelly of Staten Island clammed 141 cod on rod and reel at Cartwright on Friday, fish up to 302 lbs. On Saturday, a party of six led by Brian Williams bailed 38 cod to 13 lbs., four pollack to 18 lbs., and 200 lbs. of mackerel, all on bait.

SOUTH FORK
★ BEST BET ★
WEAKFISH

SHINNECOCK

Speck's Bait and Tackle reports weakfishing strong in Shinnecock Canal in the morning and evening hours, best on Salty Dogs, yellow bucktails, worms, red surge tubes, all being cast out and retrieved from the bank. Sean Brady had a 12 lb. 5 oz. weakfish on a pink Salty Dog. Fish are being weighed in from 4 to 7 lbs. 8 oz., on yellow bucktails. A local by the name of Roul had seven weaks from 5 to 7½ lbs. early Saturday morning in the Canal on yellow bucktails. Flounder holding at Promised Land on mussels and sand worms. One bass taken in the Montauk surf, but no details further than that.

MORICHES BAY

Ramona at **Silly Lily Fishing Station** happily tells us of a big resurgence of flounder catches this past week. It really picked up Friday and Saturday as evidenced by John Poko and pal of Brooklyn taking 64 keeper flounder on worms and heavy mussel churnming, as the fish are still in the mud. Beautiful, big fish, says Ramona, 50 to 60 per skiff. Best area is N.E. of buoy 42 on the flats.

East Moriches Bait and Tackle reports on Friday, Tony Rizzo went out with his father, Tony, Sr., and son Tony, Jr., age 7 and all three Tonys picked up over 200 macks in 1½ hrs., many four and five at a clip. On Friday night, Ed Henderson of Great Gun Anglers fished Shinnecock Canal and picked up 2 weaks, 5 lbs. 8 oz., and 7 lbs. 9 oz. on Salty Dogs and squid strips. Jim Green of North Patchogue, fishing buoys 42 and 43 had 49 keeper flounders on worms and mussels. On Saturday, John and Stan loaded up on over 600 mackerel, fishing only a couple of miles out of the inlet.

C. Bernardi and his friends with their catch of 46 large flounder to 2 lbs. 1 oz., caught on May 6, 1978 N.E. of buoy 42. Fish were caught on red-dyed clams and worms, with mussel for chum. Photo courtesy of Skidmore's Fishing Station.

Sam Santangelo and friend took this large catch of flatties off of buoy 42. The catch numbered about 70 and were taken on worms and mussel chum. Photo courtesy of Cerullo Bros. Fishing Station, Inc.

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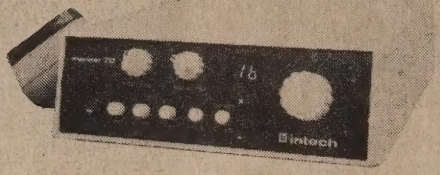

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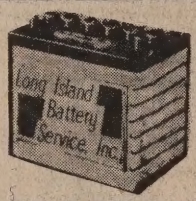

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WEAKFISH

MASTIC BEACH

Stiritz' Fishing Station tells us flounders were very good until Sunday, between buoys 10 and 12 on sands, bloods and mussels. On Friday, seven fluke were caught at buoy 26 on killies. These were all keepers, 2 to 3 lbs. Flounders from 1½ to 3½ lbs. were taken and Gary will be happy to tell you exactly where if you call him. Plenty of mackerel on the outside in 40 to 70 ft. of water.

SAYVILLE

Vinnie at **Young's Fishing Station** tells us lots of weaks are being caught at the Ocean Beach area, the Hecksher area and up in the channels close by. Green or pink Salty Dogs, white dogs tipped with squid, bucktails tipped with squid, rubber worms, sand worms and plain old squid strips are all working, but it seems that the fish only want one type of bait at a time, so you have to experiment for the right bait for the moment. Clay Hardmann had 8 weakfish on Friday at Ocean Beach on squid. Flounder fishing continues steady at Heckscher and Ocean Beach and off Blue Point on worms. Sea bass and porgies are being caught in the Ocean Beach channel areas and these are BIG porgies on all the weakfish baits, particularly squid.

EAST ISLIP

Buoy 2 Sport Shop reports weakfish becoming the big item. Biggest of the week—Fred Golofaro's 12 lb. 5 oz. tiderunner followed by Ron Meyer's 9 lb. 13 oz. fish. Tony Berto had an 8 lb. 13 oz. weak. All of this was at Ocean Beach, a number of fish going 6 to 9 lbs were weighed in. All were caught on pink and white Salty Dogs and white bucktails. These catches were mainly on Thursday and Friday. Flounders still available on the F.I. side west of Ocean Beach along with an occasional fluke.

BAY SHORE

Carl at **Smokey's Bait and Tackle** tells us that Bob Pirengkukan of Bay Shore had an 11 lb. 4 oz. weakfish from West Channel on a pink Salty Dog on Wednesday. Dennis Kuszelewicz of Central Islip bagged a 7 lb. 8 oz. weak on Saturday at Ocean Beach on a pink Salty Dog. A 9 lb. weak fell to the efforts of Ted Adams fishing off the dock behind his Bay Shore house on a tin. Bob Nivin of the Amity Harbor Fishing Club bagged an 11 lb. 14 oz. weakfish along with an 11 lb. 6 oz. weak for second place in the South Shore Marlin and Tuna Club weakfish

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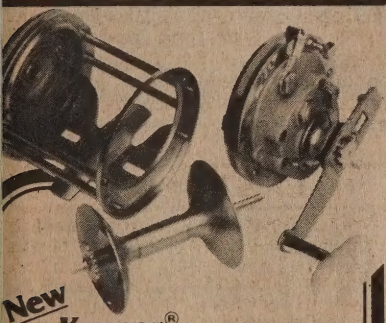

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Bob Niven of Bayshore with an 8 lb. 9 oz. weakfish caught at Ocean Beach. This is the first weakfish weighed in on the South Shore for this year. Photo courtesy of Smokey's Bait & Tackle.

contest, held over the weekend. The fish were caught on white bucktails, tipped with squid strip off Ocean Beach. A 12 plus pounder took first prize and was caught in Shinnecock, but we don't have the lucky angler's name. Can anyone help? Flounders still a good number on the Fire Island side around Sailors' Haven and the clam pond. Sea bass, porgies and blackfish around the old lighthouse on squid and clam on the inside. Sea bass are going up to 5 lbs., best area behind buoy 13 and west to the lighthouse on all tides. 65 feet of water west of the whistler has been producing steady catches of mackerel up to the storm. Sal on his boat, Geness had an 8 lb. 1 oz. weak and a 2 lb. 8 oz. fluke on Saturday at Ocean Beach on Salty Dog tipped with squid.

Capt. Neil of the **Casey Lee** reports flounder fishing was very good all week and the big news was that Friday was half-day fluke and half-day flounder. Passengers boated 47 fluke and 303 flounder. Saturday was a leap job on the fluke, with 132 keepers along with 251 flounder. This was at the bridge and Snake Hill Channel. So the fluke have really arrived! On Sunday, the boat sailes with just a few people in the gale winds and driving rain and picked one to four fluke per person and a few flounder in a few wet hours of fishing. The fluke are hitting killies and sand eels, squid and flounder belly. Saturday's pool was a 5 lb. fluke and the fluke are averaging larger in size than last year at this time. Ten short fluke were taken Friday, Saturday and Sunday and returned to the water. Neil says that in all probability he will be fluking the whole day trip soon. The afternoon weak trips are averaging one weak per man and should be steadily improving.

CAPTREE

Speedy VI reports that he has been having super mackerel fishing right through Saturday south of the Tower in 75 feet of water and that the afternoon weakfishing trips that he is running are picking up and improving daily.

Capt. Walter on the **Lady Ann** reports flounder fishing continues good for their charters. Saturday's afternoon trip working the bridge in two hours, 11 men had 15 keeper fluke. The fluke are here and their numbers should be building and result in a good fluke season. There are a lot of 2 to 2½ lb. fluke being taken, bigger than normal for this time of year. Friday they put a charter into a big mackerel school just outside Fire Island Inlet, just south of the whistler to the tune of ½ to full bags per man, then finished the day with flounder off the lighthouse on worms and clam baits.

The Jib Fleet reports a few weakfish on each of their afternoon weakfish trips. Saturday afternoon, eight big weakfish were decked while a few were dropped and there is an improvement each evening. On Wednesday's afternoon weakfish trip, Bob Skow of East Rockaway had a 7 lb. 8 oz. weak on a pink Salty Dog fishing between Ocean Beach and buoy 8. Flounders remain good, with Friday being excellent. On Saturday, 11-year-old Madeline Lander of Islip had a 5 lb. 2 oz. black for the pool on a flounder rig. This was her first party boat trip and she had a total of eight additional flounder, plus the blackfish. All this activity was between Clam Pond and the lighthouse on South Beach.

Capt. Gordon Roman of the **Captree Queen** says that from midweek on, there was a strong return of good flounder fishing in the deeper water to the tune of 20 plus fish per person and up. Thursday was the best day, with 30 to 40 fish per person. Wednesday and Thursday, they anchored up and fished one spot all day at Clam Pond. There are very good catches to be had in some of these hotspots. This was all on clams and worms. The boats started their afternoon weakfish trips this past Friday afternoon and got a few and there are good indications of fish building on the flats and Gordon says the catches should keep getting better as the days go on. On the morning trips, he will be trying

Dennis and Brett Gewant of Manhattan caught these weakfish on 5/6/78. The largest weighed 10 lbs. 2 oz. They were caught on Salty Dogs and flounder belly, out of South Bay Fishing Station buoys 4 and 5 off Heckscher Park. They were the first of the '78 season. Photo courtesy South Bay Fishing Station.

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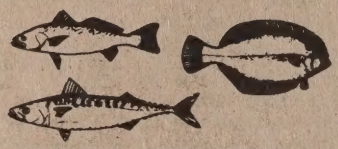

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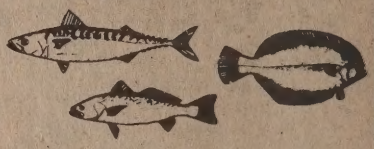

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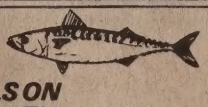

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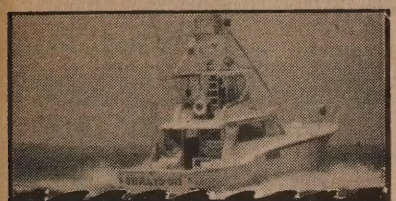

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for some fluke later on this week, mixing fluke and flounder on the same trip.

Capt. George Tweedy of the **Capt. Scotty** reported that the flounder fishing was absolutely fantastic during the week. Wednesday's fishing was one of the best days of the year, when eight fishermen took between 60 and 80 fish each. On Friday and Saturday, about 30 people were aboard, and while most had more than 20 nice flounder, a few anglers had over 40. The hot action has been in the deep hole by the lighthouse, around the changes of tide when the current is running slow. Both worms and clams are producing fish. The captain said that the weakfishing has been slow but building daily. The water is still a little cold, but the Captain noted that private boats seem to be having their best results with the weakfish using worms for bait. The best areas for the weakfish in the afternoon has been around change of tide. On Saturdays afternoon trip, six nice fluke on Salty Dogs, a sign that we're in for another great summer of fluke fishing. Some big sea bass, up to a zophtic four-lb.-plus fish on Friday have been taken while flounder fishing and casting Salty Dogs in the deeper waters of the Bay.

BABYLON

Bill at **Babylon Fishing Station** tells us the flounder action was good all week, as was the weakfishing. Thursday saw Al Goldsmith and friend Dennis, boat 47 flounder at the south end of the Captree Bridge on the east and west sides on bloodworms and regular and red-dyed clams. The flounder action is still very good. All boats continue to bag 30 to 50 fish per trip. The flatties are large and thick. The Babylon cut at the State Channel gave forth a 7½ lb. weakfish on pink Salty Dogs with white heads and squid strips. John Suss had 8 weaks up to 8 lbs., fishing north of Ocean Beach behind House's Hotel. Saturday was wall-to-wall boats at Ocean Beach and most finally caught in the afternoon. Bill has heard of fluke being caught, but hasn't seen any as yet.

Augie's Bait and Tackle reports that they weighed in a lot of weakfish and a lot of big weakfish over the weekend from the South Shore Marlin and Tuna Club's weakfish contest and that a lot of fish were taken in Bay Shore Channel on mackerel Rebels and pink Salty Dogs. Roger Konecony and Tony Franko on the Lynn W, had a 7 lb. 10 oz. weak and a 6 lb. 10 oz. on Salty Dogs. Flounders are still good at the Sore Thumb and the Bay Shore flats as of Saturday on worms and clam and a lot of chum. 18 fluke were taken on Saturday aboard Capt. John Bilitsky's **Sea Ranger**. Call John and find out what the bait was. This action was at the Captree Bridge and further into the Inlet. Another party boat had some 30 fluke, so that this warm water species has definitely started to move in.

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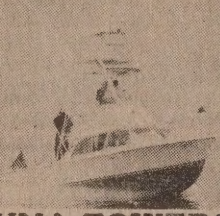

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Two out of a catch of 11 weaks, from 7 to 9 lb. 5 oz., held out to the camera by Sam Blasi of E. Meadow, member of East Bay Anglers. Fish taken on sand worms in deep holes at Ocean Beach and Steamboat Channel on the flood on Wednesday, between 1-5PM.

SOUTH SHORE BAYS
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FLOUNDER

LINDENHURST

The open boat **Sea Horse** reports that Saturday saw very good flounder fishing near the bridge and at various spots in the inlet, along with the fishable days during the week. This was on both tides on clam and worm baits.

Charlie's Bait and Tackle reports a few fluke in the inlet on the east bar on sand eels, killies and squid. John calls this a good start. Blackfish at the Artificial Reef with Vinnie DeMartino bagging a 4½ lb. sea bass off Ocean Beach, while everybody else took weaks. Flounders were a good number up to the storm at the Sore Thumb on worm and clam, while mackerel have been south of the inlet in 70 ft. of water, providing good catches.

COPIAGUE

Jonas Bait and Tackle reports that on Wednesday, Bob and Joe Lynch of Amity Harbor took a 10, 7, and 5 lb. weakfish off West Island on pink Salty Dogs and white bucktails. Pete McClot fished Thursday at

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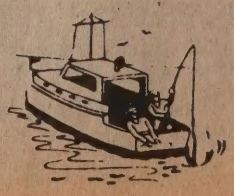

Ocean Beach and on pink and white Tri-Fin bucktails picked a 10 lb. 6 oz., a 6 lb. 8 oz., a 5 lb. 14 oz., and a 5 lb. 3 oz. weakfish at the Amity Cut in State Channel and at the drawbridge. Four weakfish and two blackfish were taken on Pussy Cat lures at the Kismet Reef on Friday by two anglers. A good number now is blackfish at the Kismet Reef on crabs if you have them, and worms and clam if you don't. Flounder excellent at Squaw Island and Nassau Shores, with some customers bringing in 50 to 75 flatties up to 2½ lbs. The Sore Thumb is a hotspot on clams, worms and mussel chum. Lars Johnson and Arny Ramstad had 85 keeper flounder from 1 to 2½ lbs. at the Sore Thumb on Friday on the above baits. Fluke are here and there and the keepers are more likely to be taken on killies.

SEAFORD

Capt. Eddie's Fishing Station tells us that Thurday, Friday and Saturday averaged 50 to 100 flounder per skiff, main catches being at Massapequa Cove, the hole at Goose Island, and Squaw Island, fish going up to 3 lbs. on bloodworms and clam. A few weaks on private boats on squid and rubber shrimp.

Shore Isle Marina tells us that Jim Miller of Seaford had 26 flounder on Saturday and 30 on Sunday, all in just a few hours of fishing. Jim worked just west of the second Wantagh bridge using bloodworms and mussel on the hook and mussel chum. All fish were over 1 lb. Free Coast Guard inspections will be given at Shore Isle Marina this Saturday, May 20th. Just pull your boat up to the dock for your free safety inspection.

MERRICK

Jimmy at **Nick's Fishing Station** tells us that Wednesday, Thursday and Friday saw the flounder activity really pick up in Broad Creek and Ned's creek to the tune of 50 to 60 flounder per boat of mixed sizes, with a lot over 2 lbs. on worm, clam and mussels chum. Eight weakfish were taken by a private boat running out to Ocean Beach on Twisters and squid and Salty Dogs and squid, fish up to 8 lbs. Some blackfish at the third Meadow Brook bridge on clam and fiddlers at either slack.

Merrick Marine Supplies tells us that Sam Blasi of East Meadow has 11 weaks from 7 to 9 lbs. 5 oz. on sand worms fishing deep holes at Ocean Beach on the flood on Wednesday afternoon. Buoy 12 at Ocean Beach on pink shrimp and sand worm are providing good catches of fish in the 5 and 6 lb. range. Lenny Braun of Merrick had part of that catch. Still some flounder in scattered patches. Lots of bait in the water. Some weakfish are being taken by fly rodders using streamer flies.

On Saturday, G. Korn took the situation in hand and partook in the flounder action off Merrick. Despite being encumbered by inferior tackle, Korn managed to catch the biggest flounder of the trip, a 1 lb. 9 oz. fat beauty. Korn also lost the Carvel pool for the day, the only contest where the winner is a loser and the losers are winners.

BALDWIN

andy at **Arthur Street Fishing Station** reports that on Saturday a lot of mackerel were caught by any one of several boats fishing 65 to 70 ft. of water. Art and Tim Petron had over 300 lbs. A few fluke in Reynold's channel on squid fishing off Scotty's and Ed's station. Flounder still being caught in Middle Bay and Baldwin Bay on worms and mussels.

WEST END SOUTH SHORE
★ BEST BET ★
MACKEREL

FREEPORT

Capt. Mike Miller on the charter boat **Apus** called to tell us that Thursday's trip for anglers Ray Kahoud and Scott Lugavere resulted in 17 flounder from 3/4 to 2¾ lbs. fishing Garretts Lead and Cinder Creek. Mike says he still has some baits available for sharks, blues and fluke.

Charter boat **Ivory Queen** called to tell us of his Friday mackerel charter fishing south of Jones in which the fish box was filled in two hours, using chum to hold the fish. Bill and two pals from the Freeport Tuna Club fished in 60 to 80 feet of water.

The Freeport Boatmen's Association reports that its boats that sailed for mackerel this past week had very good catches fishing just a short distance out of the inlet. The boats out after flounder also had catches averaging four to five fish per man, fish being 1 to 2¼ lbs. On Sunday, two boats ventured out for flounder and caught well in the early morning hours. The Charter boat **Nite Owl II** had a wedding on board on Sunday and also a reception later on at the dock. It is now known whether the honeymoon was spent on the boat also. The Nite Owl II still has several openings for its May 28 tilefishing trip which is going to be limited to 25 persons to afford plenty of elbow room. See ad for details.

Charter boat **Sea Hawk** called to tell us that on Friday Sal Mineo of Brooklin and four buddies had 75 flounder fishing Cinder Creek on both tides using clam baits and a lot of mussel, clam and corn chum. Saturday's charter of Paul Posner of Brooklyn resulted in 35 flounder from 1 to 2 lbs., for five men on regular and red-dyed clams.

The Starstream II fished mackerel all week and weekend and had excellent

Shown here is part of a catch of 53 flounder weighing 3/4 to 2 lbs., caught April 29. Anglers were: Rich Lesen, James Soriano, Grace Gerbenti, Paul Rapino, Gary Cianci, and Steve Fridie. Photo courtesy Capt. Mike Miller.

catches, says Capt. Richie. All fishing was done from Jones Inlet to Gilgo and the mackerel continued strong right up to the big storm. A few sea bass were taken this week also, with one going to 3 lbs. on Saturday, taken on a rig lowered to the bottom. Saturday and Sunday saw good catches despite the poor weather.

The Capt. Al reports plenty of mackerel all week long fishing from Cholera to Jones Inlet and fishing up to Fire Island Inlet on Saturday. Catches are from 50 to 100 macks per man and Al says the fish are definitely very close by to Jones Inlet, with no real travelling time involved and no need to ride far.

Charter Boat **Captain II** had the charter of Tom Mills and party out on Saturday, loading up with mackerel fishing just a short distance from Jones Inlet. Rumor of several blues caught on mackerel jigs around Scotland.

Aloma II reports very good mackerel action Thursday and Saturday fishing one mile southeast of Cholera, from a half to a full bag per man. Macks should remain about another week or so, says Spider.

The Capt. Hall reports hearing rumors of fluke at Reynold's Channel and Deb's Inlet and says there is good mackerel fishing if you stay at it. Best mackerel catches are very close in to Jones Inlet now. Your reporter had broiled mackerel for the first time this past week and found it excellent table fare; neither oily nor too fishy.

Charter boat **Captain Joe** skippered by Capt. Wayne King reports that on Saturday the charter of Doreen Muller of Wantagh and friends, had over 100 flounder to 2 lbs., fishing Reynold's Channel and Garrett's Lead just west of the railroad trestle and also Sea Dog Creek on clams and worm.

The Capt. Lou II went out with four fares in Sunday's monster weather and grabbed about 100 flounder before they called it quits at noon. High hook was 18 fish. Capt. Mike says flounder was good all week and he is getting bigger fish now as they are coming out of the mud, fish up to 2½ lbs. Mike is fishing mostly Reynold's Channel, the Coast Guard Station and Sea Dog Creek. Harold Wells was Saturday's high hook with 37 flounder. It's good every day and worms are working best now.

The Miss Freeport reports that Thursday's mackeral charter for the Garden City Marine Recruiters was a big success fishing southeast of Jones, a scant ten miles out. Friday's charter for Metropolitan Life saw good flounder catches in Reynolds's Channel and to the west with clam and mussels. Saturday's mackerel catch was good, again just outside the Inlet four or five miles.

The Blue Fin Fleet called to report that on Saturday both boats with charters aboard had excellent flounder fishing and that the flatties are bigger and more plentiful in the Reynold's Channel area on worm and clam on both tides. Capt. Charlie Adams on the **Blue Fin** had his first fluke of the season Saturday, taken by John Callori of Bethpage, member of Grumman Food Services charter. This fluke hit a flounder rig and weighed in at 2 lb. 2 oz. On the **Blue Fin II**, Richie Keating took the pool with a whiting of nearly 2 lbs. Rich Hannon was high hook for the day.

Anthony's Fishing Station tells us that on Friday, Edna and Eddie Munsch had 63 flounder fishing the Golf Course and the high flats drain area on worms. Other skiffs picked away, with approximately 15 to 18 flounder per boat. Some fluke at Reynold's Channel Saturday on strip baits and squid. A few blackfish at the bridges

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on any one of several baits.

Sea Isle Sports also tells of mackerel close in to the Inlet and also tells of whispers of bluefish in the pound nets.

POINT LOOKOUT

SCOTTY'S Fishing Station tells of flounder being caught in good numbers in the flats on worm and clam with mussel chumming a must. Fish are a good size, 1½ to 2 lbs., approximately 30 per skiff. Some fluke were brought in on Saturday, 10 from Reynolds Channel right in front of the station, on sand eels. Blackfish at the meadowbrook bridge on fiddlers, fish to 1½ lbs. A couple of short bass taken by gillnetters.

ISLAND PARK

The open boat **Commodore** reports good flounder fishing during the week and Saturday fair. Capt. Clem is catching flounders in Reynolds Channel, Duck Point, Hog Channel on worms and mussels. Some blacks at the Atlantic Beach bridge on worms, clam or crab. A 4 lb. weakfish was boated in Hog Channel on a flounder rig, while a few stray fluke are being picked.

Bill on the **Gennie May** tells us that on both Saturday and Sunday he had mixed fishing of fluke, macks, whiting and blues. This was both in the inlet and outside the inlet a short distance. The fluke were all keepers from 14 to 16 inches, no short fish. They had six on Sunday and six on Saturday. Some blues were taken while mackerel fishing, blues in the 3 to 4 lb. range. Whiting are being taken in Reynold's Channel, no less. Squid on bucktails for the fluke which accounted for a couple of blues also around Deb's Inlet.

Charter Boat **Ro-Ma-Fran** had a party out this week and also indulged on the fluke and whiting in Reynold's Channel, same baits.

Beckmann's Tackle tells us that on Saturday he had lots of fluke brought in to the shop, the best catch being that of Tom Pellegrino, with 24 keeper fluke on sand eels fishing Reynold's Channel from Loop Bridge east to the inlet on the flood. All week through Saturday, flounder was much improved from East Rockaway inlet to Jones. Both the Atlantic Beach and the Meadowbrook bridges are producing good catches of blackfish up to 5 lbs. on all tides plus slack, though slack is easiest to fish, on fiddlers, green crabs or clam. Beckmann's now has tide cards in, keyed on Jones Inlet and will be glad to send you one if you send in a stamped-self-addressed envelope.

ATLANTIC BEACH

Henning's Fishing Station tells us that Saturday was a real potpourri day in the Reynold's Channel area around Atlantic Beach. Lots of flounder, many big eels, strong showings of blackfish, and loads of inshore whiting were brought back by private and rental skiffs. Four friends in one rental skiff had a full bushel of flounder and 14 big eels, which they took fishing off the Cedarhurst Yacht Club on worms and mussels. Good catches of blackfish up to 2½ lbs. were made at the Atlantic Beach Bridge on fiddlers and clam across from the Cedarhurst Yacht Club on the south side of Reynolds Channel. Excellent catches of whiting were drifted on clam. Five blues were bagged in front of the Coast Guard station just west of Henning's on clam. Mackerel in 50 ft. of water south of Jones Inlet and also at buoy 4. Giant ling were caught early Saturday before the blow in the 80 ft. hole off Far Rockaway about 500 yards off the beach.

JAMAICA BAY

Cross Bay Rod & Gun reports good sized flounders at the North and South Channel bridges on worm and mussels baits. A few blacks have been taken from the North and South Channel bridges on fiddlers and clams. A few stripers in the 17 to 18 inch category have been taken on flounder rigs from these bridges but it is still early for the bass.

SHEEPSHEAD BAY

The Zephyr reports very good blackfishing along with a showing of sea bass at Jersey's Shrewsbury Rocks.

Charter boat **Big Mohawk II** called to tell us Saturday's charter fished mackerel and whiting at Scotland and the red side of Ambrose, all the fish you could handle, says Capt. Tony. A mixed bag and all passengers bagged up. Tony says that he still has some night blue dates open and also a few day bluefish dates open.

Capt. Tom on the **Pilot II** tells us that Saturday's blackfishing was fantastic, with 99 percent blackfish and a few sea bass mixed in. Tommy says that this is the best action you are going to see on these sluggers. They are running 2 to 6 lbs. on fiddlers and green crabs at Shrewsbury off Jersey. Catches are 10 to 40 fish per person.

Capt. Walter on the **Flamingo III** tells us fishing was very good all week long on mackerel, though became picky at times, but that a day's fishing made the burlap

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sacks bulge. Hopefully, the storm at the end of the week will push more mackerel and whiting up into the New York Bight and make things even better. A couple of days during the week saw excellent whiting mixed in with the mackerel. Between the two, there was lots of action everyday, some days the whiting predominating and some days the mackerel.

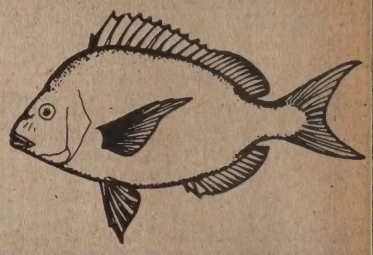
The Blue Sea III and the **Elsie K III** also report that they are doing a neat job on the mackerel and whiting, usually splitting their bags. All fares are bringing home mucho fish.

The Dorothy B has found a lot of big ling just a half hour from the dock and reports it was an all-out slaughter Wednesday through Saturday fishing the red side of Ambrose Channel at the Tin Can Grounds. Some whiting were mixed in with these ling and also a few sea bass. An occasional bluefish has been heard of as being caught. Capt. Kevin is also starting 5 PM afternoon trips, Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays, with a $8 fare for fish targets of opportunity.

Stella Maris Bait and Tackle reports excellent fishing Friday and Saturday on mackerel, blacks, fluke and whiting. The mackerel boats are running east to the Fire Island area and have been loading up. Blackfish are being taken on the boats fishing the rocky areas off Jersey and loci on clam and crabs. Flounder actio continues good in the jetty area and o Manhattan Beach on worms, clam an mussel. The whiting catches have bee very strong in the entire New York Bigh area, particularly around Ambrose Char nel but are on their way out.

STATEN ISLAND

Santo's Sport Shop reports flounde are still the best bet at Piers 17 and 18 Clifton at Bay Street, for a good 20 to 3 fish per person, if you work at it. A lot eels and tommy cod mixed in, and actio is consistent. On Saturday, 12 small bas were caught at Great Kills on the flood o worms. The Jersey street area ha produced some small schoolies to 3 lbs. o worms.



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GREENPORT

The Wilheric reports he will begin weakfishing Friday, 7AM and 7 PM. This past week, fair catches of snowshoes were made off Bostwick. 30 flatties were taken in one hour up to 3½ lbs.

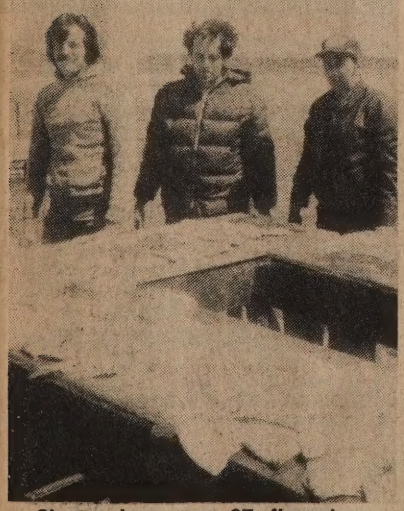
Capt. George Porter's **Brand X** will be switching to weakfish and porgies by the time you read this report. George says there are indications of a strong weak and porgy spring.

Artie of **A P White Bait Shop** reported the flounder fishing is excellent. They are plentiful and of good size in the Gardiner's Island area. Flounder of 2 to 3 lbs. are not rare in an average catch.

The poor weather is to blame for the bad weak and porgy fishing. The fish traps are producing good, however, the hook and line fishermen are not yet doing well. "We need a few days of sunny calm weather to break things loose."

SOUTHOLD

Port of Egypt reported the weather wiped them out last Sunday. Last Saturday, there were three weaks caught between buoys 17 and 18. During the weekdays, there were also a couple weaks caught. Flats are off th the windmills at Greenlawn and South Ferry. As of this report, there are loads of mackerel at buoy 17 and the abandoned lighthouse off Greenport.



Shown here are 97 flounders weighing 1½ to 2 lbs., taken at South Ferry by Roger and Peter Pfeiffer and John Mohr, all from Old Tappan, N.J. Photo courtesy of Port of Egypt.

John Bernardon and Al Schnoor of Jackson Heights Anglers, caught 22 flounder up to 3 lbs., and their first blackfish of 7½ lbs., taken on a 6 lb. test line. Photo courtesy of Capt. Marty's Fishing Station.

JAMESPORT

Warren's Tackle Center reported a fair amount of weaks caught last Friday evening at Cow's Neck. Saturday was a so-so day for the weaks and only a few fish came in Sunday because of the rotten weather. That water is still cold. We need some sunshine.

SHINNECOCK

The Capt. Clark Fleet reports that by the time you read this issue, one boat will be flounder fishing and the other will be weakfishing, both sailing at 8 AM. The flounder fishing both Friday and Saturday off Jamesport continued to be very good, said Capt. Clark Bellows. Clark, Jr. had 9 weakfish on Saturday evening and 5 more weakfish Sunday morning, so that boat should be into some solid weakfishing. See ad for details.

NOYAC

Barbara at **Noyac Marina** tells us that on Saturday, Dennis Kennedy and three friends decked 97 good flounder, from 1¾ up to 3 lbs., off Jessup's on worms, mussel chum and yellow-dyed clams.

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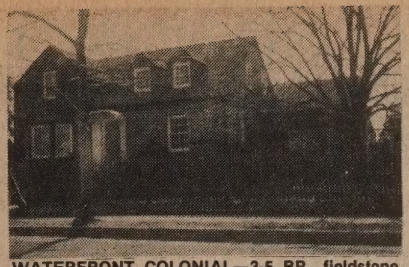

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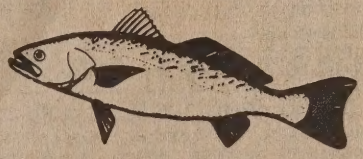

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ROCKY POINT

The Rocky Point Fishing Stop reported despite all the wind on Sunday, some decent catches were made. Fred and Winnie Schoenwerk jigged a mackerel tree and diamond jig at Buoy 11. They only lasted about 20 minutes, but boated 30 mackerel 2 to 3 lbs. Donald Mues fished the incoming tide over the rocks at Friendship Beach and came up with a good catch of blackfish up to 5 lbs. Don said bigger fish were snapping his line. There are still decent flounder catches being made, but it seems the fishing is slowing down.

MT. SINAI HBR.

Ray at **Ralph's Fishing Station** said if and when you locate the mackerel schools, the catch is good but they are not easy to locate. Flounder fishing is okay at Mt. Misery Rock with some fish up to 2 lbs. Mussels, worms and skimmers are working, with mussels being best. Blackfish are off to a good beginning, the action is over any rocky area with skimmers or worms as bait.

PORT JEFFERSON

Caraftis Fishing Station reported the mackerel were out at buoy 11 and beyond in deeper water. Flounder fishing has been good at Old Field Point. Blackfish are just starting. As of this report, the fishing is still slow but flounder fishermen are definitely getting more blacks than just a week ago. A break in the weather will speed up the season.

The Betty W reports flounder holding well, with mackerel in ever-increasing numbers. Flounders and blacks are fairly strong, though blackfish have taken the pool all week. Port Jeff's Bob Bannon took the pool Wednesday with an 8 ½ lb. blackfish. Action slowed in the weekend's poor weather. John said that the boat is chartered this Saturday and Sunday.

Dave Spindell of Smithtown, with 100 flounders to 2 lbs., he caught single-handed off Callahan's Beach. Photo courtesy of Mae's Way Fishing Station.

KINGS PARK

Mae's Way Fishing Station reports flounder fishing good when weather permits, with an occasional blackfish in the 4 to 7 lbs. class mixed in, fishing worms off the Mansion. Plenty of mackerel available for those who work at it. On Saturday morning, Roger Olsen took 24 flounder up to 2 lbs. off the Mansion, then went into the Sound for 100 lbs. of mackerel. Also on Saturday, Kevin Barry and two buddies pulled 48 flounder and 2 blacks, the largest black 7¼ lbs., on sand worms and clams at the Mansion.

NORTHPORT

Tom of **Bowman's Sporting Goods** reported Sunday was a wipe-out with eight-foot waves at Eaton's Neck. Prior to the big blow on Sunday, mackerel fishing was great between shore and the Lilco loading dock. Any mackerel tree with a diamond jig tied to the end will work. Simply drift between the two points mentioned and work the rig at different levels. Any tide will produce. Most boats are coming in with around 30 fish in the 2 to 3 lb. range. Actually, once you locate the macks, it's no problem loading up with 100 or even 200 fish. "But who wants to clean all those fish?" So, after 30 the rest are returned. Within a couple of weeks, the macks will be gone. Flounder fishing is excellent for shore casters and boatmen. Shore casters are getting them at Sand City and Crab Meadow Beach. These fish are 1 to 1½ lbs. average, while the fish about one-half mile off Callahan's are larger. Two to 2½ pounders are not uncommon. Sand worms are best with two hours either side of high water producing most fish. The same two hours either side of high is the only time to catch blackfish. The blacks will take sand worms, however, they prefer fiddlers. Sand City, Mackamah Beach and off the Coast Guard Station are some of the better spots. "It looks the beginning of a great blackfish season." The striped bass activity is late. Shore casters are getting stripers from 5 to 10 lbs. in the "hot water." It seems the smaller fish from shorts to maybe 5 lbs., have moved out of the hot water, but this is still hit-and-miss. Incoming tide is best, especially is caught around dawn or dusk. Anything white seems to be working. It doesn't matter if you're working top or bottom lures—white is the color.

HUNTINGTON

Four Winds Tackle reported mackerel are around early in the morning but the schools are spooky. If you are going to score well, you need chum. Flounder fishing is all on the outside now at places like Callahan's. Blackfish are on the move. Good numbers of fish up to 7½ lbs. were caught last week. Last Friday there were some weaks taken at Ashroken Beach. School bass in Cold Spring Harbor about the Causeway to Whitewood Point. Fish are going 4 to 8 lbs., and taking Rebels and worms.

Capt. Don of the **Ever Ready** tells us that Saturday's mackerel run was very productive on big mackerel fishing on a line from Target Rock to Eaton's Neck. As some blackfish were also taken over the weekend, Don trips will feature blacks, macks and flounder. He says that his Wednesday all-day trips are in full gear.

Ronnie of **Ronnie's Bait and Tackle** reported bass to 15 lbs. are being taken on Rebels off the Causeway Beach, time or tide doesn't seem to make a difference. Small Rebels are turning the trick. Blackfish are just beginning at Eaton's Neck, with fish up to 6 lbs. The flounder fishing is still good, but slowing. Mackerel fishing is spotty, except when the schools are located and then the action is hot and heavy. Don Miller came up with a 3 lb. 12 oz. rainbow trout which he caught on a Rebel while fishing for bass off the Causeway Beach.

Bill of the **Morning Time Marina** reported the blackfishing really broke loose over the past several days. Bill saw blackfish 5 to 8 lbs. being taken at Target Rock on fiddlers. Flounder fishing is still okay, but definitely on the way out. Eels seem to be plentiful in the bays and harbor and Bill was surprised to see some blue claw crabs being accidentally taken which might be a sign of a good blue claw year.

NORTH SHORE WEST END

★ BEST BET ★ MACKEREL

BAYVILLE

Norm of **Norm's Bait and Tackle** reports that the blackfishing is very good in the area of the Bayville Bridge. Mackerel are being taken at Buoy 32A and off Oak Neck Point. Sometimes these fish can be found right up on the beach. Bass are being taken at Cooper's Bluff. Worms and small Rebels are taking these schoolies. Flounder from 1 to 1¼ lbs. are still coming in. Stehli's Beach now open to the public, is producing good flounder and blackfish catches from shore.

CITY ISLAND

Jack's Tackle Shop reported Saturday the rental boats came in with a lot of blackfish from the Fort Slocum area. Several of the boats had fish from 4 to 7 lbs. Still plenty of flounders around. The City Island boats are getting mackerel and the 9AM boat is picking up flats along with a few blackfish. There's now some bass in Turtle Cove. This past week, school fish were picked up in the morning.

John's Gun and Tackle in the Bronx reports plenty of flounders at Sand Point and Matinecock Point on sand worms and mussel chum. Loads of mackerel in the Sound which should be putting on the feedbag shortly. Blacks starting at the City Island bridges and rocks and at Orchard Beach on clam, sand worms and fiddlers. A few bass in Turtle Cove on floating or sinking Rebels, but these are mostly short fish. John hears of good striper fishing in the Hudson on bloodworms, a few fish up to 30 lbs., in the Croton area.

HIGH TIDE TABLES

DAY	SANDY HOOK AM	SANDY HOOK PM	Breakwater Harbor AM	Breakwater Harbor PM	NEW YORK AM	NEW YORK PM	NEW LONDON AM	NEW LONDON PM	WILLETS POINT AM	WILLETS POINT PM	BRIDGE-PORT AM	BRIDGE-PORT PM	NEW-PORT AM	NEW-PORT PM	DATE
THUR	4:54	5:33	5:48	6:19	5:32	6:09	6:40	7:06	8:10	8:41	8:21	8:44	5:02	5:29	5/18
FRI	5:51	6:23	6:39	7:05	6:29	6:56	7:28	7:49	9:09	9:31	9:12	9:33	5:52	6:16	5/19
SAT	6:42	7:11	7:26	7:50	7:19	7:41	8:15	8:31	10:03	10:18	10:05	10:21	6:41	7:04	5/20
SUN	7:32	7:57	8:13	8:37	8:07	8:25	9:03	9:17	10:54	11:09	10:53	11:10	7:28	7:51	5/21
MON	8:20	8:44	9:02	9:24	8:55	9:14	9:51	10:05	11:41	11:58	11:42	11:58	8:18	8:38	5/22
TUE	9:09	9:32	9:50	10:13	9:46	10:03	10:39	10:53	—	12:31	—	12:33	9:07	9:28	5/23
WED	10:01	10:23	10:42	11:04	10:42	10:56	11:32	11:45	12:46	1:23	12:48	1:25	9:56	10:19	5/24
THUR	10:57	11:19	11:36	11:59	11:43	11:59	—	12:05	1:38	2:18	1:41	2:18	10:51	11:12	5/25

HOW TO USE TIDE TABLES

To compute the high tide for the area you wish to fish, simply find the closest area on the conversion tables. Add or subtract the hours and minutes as indicated from that areas station above. Example: "Shinnecock Inlet.....—0 50" is listed under "On SANDY HOOK." —0 50 means you subtract 50 minutes from the times given for the SANDY HOOK STATION for the day you are going fishing. This is the approximate time for the high tide in the area. For low tide, add 6 ½ hours to this figure.

On SANDY HOOK

STATEN ISLAND	+ 0 27
ATLANTIC HIGHLANDS	—0 01
Red Bank, Navesink R.I.	+ 0 48
Long Branch	—0 34
SHARK RIVER INLET	—0 18
Shark River Basin	+ 0 27
MANASQUAN INLET	—0 12
Seaside Park	—0 33
Mantoloking Bridge	+ 5 34
TOMS RIVER	+ 4 37
Waretown	+ 2 33
BARNEGAT LIGHT	—0 20
Manahawkin Bridge	+ 2 33
Beach Haven	+ 1 47
LITTLE EGG INLET	—0 01
Seven Islands	+ 0 12
Graveling Point	+ 1 05
Mullica River	+ 1 55
Grassy Bay	+ 1 08
ABSECON INLET	+ 0 14
Atlantic City Pier	—0 26
Gt. Egg Harbor Inlet	+ 0 12
GREAT EGG HARBOR	+ 0 46
CORSON INLET	+ 0 09
TOWNESEND INLET	+ 0 06
HEREFORD INLET	+ 0 02
Grassy Sound Bridge	+ 0 45
Cape May Harbor	—0 02
Rehoboth Beach	—0 07
INDIAN RIVER INLET	+ 0 14
SHINNECOCK INLET	—0 50
Shinnecock Bay	+ 1 25
East Quogue	+ 2 45
Shinnecock Canal	+ 1 18
Indian Reservation	+ 3 05
MORICHES INLET	—0 56
Smith's Point	+ 3 28
Harts Cove	+ 1 30
Potunck Point	+ 3 35
Mastic Beach	+ 3 28
FIRE ISLAND INLET	—0 38
Democrat Point	—0 38
Coast Guard Station	—0 19
Fire Island Light	+ 0 47
GREAT SOUTH BAY	
Sayville	+ 3 39
Heckscher State Pk.	+ 3 20
Bay Shore	+ 2 23
Babylon	+ 2 12
Amityville	+ 2 21
JONES INLET	—0 19
Zachs Bay	+ 1 25
Seaford Harbor	+ 2 05
Freeport Creek	+ 0 34
E. ROCKAWAY INLET	—0 06
Long Beach Bridge	+ 0 19
ROCKAWAY INLET	—0 00
Beach Ch. Bridge	+ 0 38
JFK Airport	+ 0 26

On BRIDGEPORT

Lloyd Point	+ 0 08
Cold Spring Harbor	+ 0 08
Bayville Bridge	+ 0 13
Eatons Neck Point	+ 0 03
Northport Bay	+ 0 03
Norwalk Islands	+ 0 10
Smithtown Bay	—0 03
Cranes Neck Point	+ 0 05
Port Jefferson Harbor	+ 0 03
New Haven Harbor	+ 0 08
Mount Sinai Harbor	—0 08
Herod Point	—0 07
Mattituck Inlet	+ 0 19
Horton Point	—0 20
Truman Beach	—0 42
Falkner Island	—0 13
Sachem Head	—0 10
Branford Harbor	—0 07
New Haven Harbor	—0 08
Milford Harbor	—0 07
Stratford	+ 0 27
Shelton	+ 1 36
Black Rock Harbor	—0 03
Saugatuck River	—0 01
South Norwalk	+ 0 10
Greens Ledge	—0 01
Stamford	+ 0 04
Cos Cob Harbor	+ 0 06
Greenwich	+ 0 02

On NEW LONDON

Orient Point	+ 0 27
Little Gull Is. (Race)	+ 0 12
Greenport	+ 1 04
Southold	+ 1 43
New Suffolk	+ 2 26
South Jamesport	+ 2 32
Shinnecock Canal	+ 2 33
Noyack Bay	+ 2 05
Sag Harbor	+ 0 59
Gardiners Bay	+ 0 21
Promised Land	—0 14
Montauk Inlet	—0 25
Montauk Point	—1 13
Niantic	+ 1 20
Stonington	—0 33
Noank, Mystic River	—0 23
THAMES RIVER	
Smith Cove	—0 01
Norwich	+ 0 09
CONNECTICUT RIVER	
Saybrook jetty	+ 1 10
Lyme	+ 1 24
Essex	+ 1 38
East Haddam	+ 2 41
Higganum Creek	+ 2 54

On WILLETS PT.

Little Neck Bay	—0 10
Execution Light	—0 06
Manhasset Bay	—0 01
Hempstead Harbor	—0 11
City Island	—0 03
Rye Beach	—0 28
Port Chester	—0 09
Mamaroneck	—0 08
New Rochelle	—0 24
Davids Island	—0 02

On B'WATER HB.

CAPE MAY POINT	—0 10
Miami Beach	+ 1 17
East Point	+ 0 53
Egg Island Point	+ 0 33
Cape Henlopen	—0 05
ROOSEVELT INLET	+ 0 09
Mispillion River Ent.	+ 0 33
St. Jones River Ent.	+ 0 57

On NEW YORK

Jersey City	+ 0 07
Geo. Washington Br.	+ 0 46
Spuyten Duyvil	+ 0 58
Ossining	+ 1 53
Peekskill	+ 2 24
West Point	+ 3 16
Newburg	+ 3 42

On NEWPORT

Sakonnet	—0 10
Tiverton	+ 0 21
Beavertail Point	—0 02
Prudence Is., Sandy Pt.	+ 0 10
Bristol	+ 0 10
Warren	+ 0 21
Nayatt Point	+ 0 12
Pawtucket	+ 0 21
East Greenwich	+ 0 16
Wickford	+ 0 12
Narragansett Pier	—0 08
Point Judith Harbor	—0 07
BLOCK ISLAND	
Great Salt Pond	+ 0 05
Old Harbor	—0 14
Watch Hill Point	+ 0 44

SUNRISE/SUNSET

5/1	5:56	7:58
5/6	5:50	8:04
5/11	5:44	8:09
5/16	5:39	8:14
5/21	5:34	8:19
5/26	5:31	8:24

PHASES OF THE MOON

NEW	1st Qtr.	FULL	2nd Qtr.
5/7	5/15	5/22	5/29

The Original Knight SOLUNAR TABLES When To Fish Or Hunt

The schedule of solunar periods for the following week as printed below has been taken from the original Knight Solunar Tables. Plan your day so that you will be fishing good areas during these times when the fish should be most active. The tables are not a guarantee you will catch fish, however.

The major periods begin at the time shown and last for an hour-and-a-half or two hours thereafter, and are in the bold type face. The minor periods are shorter in duration and lighter type.

	AM		PM	
	Minor	**Major**	Minor	**Major**
Thurs.	1:30	**8:05**	2:00	**8:30**
Fri.	2:15	**8:45**	2:45	**9:10**
Sat.	2:55	**9:30**	3:25	**10:00**
Sun.	3:40	**10:30**	4:15	**11:00**
Mon.	4:40	**11:35**	5:15	—
Tues.	5:45	**12:05**	6:20	**12:40**
Wed.	6:50	**1:10**	7:20	**1:45**
Thurs.	8:00	**2:15**	8:25	**2:50**

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